

# Draw Near

*“Let us then with confidence DRAW NEAR  
to the throne of grace, that we may receive  
mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”  
Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)*

## **A 13 Week Bible Study on the Book of Hebrews**

*All material taken from the works of Pastor’s Frank and Parris Bailey  
and the NKJV Bible unless noted otherwise.*

# Draw Near

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## Draw Near

The book of Hebrews was originally written for the Jewish believers in Jerusalem almost 2000 years ago and its message is still relevant today. This letter was written to believers who had seen it all. Signs, Miracles and Wonders was their daily experience. They had experienced some of the greatest miracles the world had ever seen. After all, was there any greater revival church than the one in Jerusalem? They had experienced the greatest revival of all time and had heard the greatest of the apostolic preachers. Should we have Peter or John this week? Yet even this church was susceptible to spiritual apathy. Of those people who were set on fire in the upper room, there were those who stayed the course and turned the world upside down and then there were others who had slipped away.

Andrew Murray writes in his classic book "The Holiest of All", that the book of Hebrews is a call to come out of that life of unbelief and sloth, that leads to a departing from the living God, and to enter into the promised land, the rest of God, a life in His fellowship and favor. It is a call to all lukewarm, half-hearted Christians, no longer to remain in the outer court of the tabernacle, content with the hope that their sins are pardoned. Nor even to be satisfied with having entered the Holy Place, and there doing the service of the tabernacle, while the veil still hinders the full fellowship with the living God and His love."

Paul writes to these people to persevere in the time of persecution. This letter was a reminder of the former days as a warning not to let traditions and formalism replace the pentecostal fires of revival. This study "**Draw Near**" is a call to the church and to you personally to return back to the place where the fire started, back to a focus on the glory of the Son of God.

Pastors Frank and Parris Bailey



# Week ONE

## HE IS UPHOLDING YOU!

*“He has the Whole World in His Hands”*

*Hebrews 1:3, “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*

### 1. WHO ARE WE DRAWING NEAR TO?

Long before fire fell in the upper room, fire fell on Mount Sinai. Back in Exodus, Moses while in Midian tending his flock saw a bush that was on fire but was not being consumed. The Bible said He “turned aside” to see this wonder. Those words “turned aside” the Hebrew word “*cuwr*” (strong’s # 5493) means to “turn off.” So we can say that Moses when seeing the burning bush “turned off” the road to “draw near” to the voice that he heard speaking out of it. That same fire fell on the day of pentecost. **That same pentecostal fire still burns today, the eternal voice is still speaking and the radiance of His glory has never shined brighter.** It is time to “turn aside” and “turn off” the road that you are traveling to encounter the Living God. There is a new and better way to live. Draw Near; He waits for you!

### 2. WHO DID MOSES ENCOUNTER?

When Moses drew near he asked, who was it that was speaking to him? The Lord answered in *Exodus 3:14-15* God said to Moses, **“I AM WHO I AM”**; and He said, *“Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”* God, furthermore, said to Moses, *“Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.”*

### 3. WHO IS THE GREAT I AM?

\_\_\_\_\_ !

John 8:58, Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

John 6:35, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger.”

John 8:12, “I am the light of the world.”

John 10:9, "I am the door."

John 15:1, "I am the true vine."

John 10:11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

John 11:25, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me."

***He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."***

***Psalm 46:10***

#### **4. WHO ARE WE TO GAZE UPON TODAY?**

*Hebrews 1:3, "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."*

Hebrews 1:3 identifies \_\_\_\_\_ as the "radiance" of the glory of God. That word "radiance" is the same word as "outshining". Vs 3 says, "Who being the effulgence (outshining) of His glory, and the very image of His substance..." "Let us also turn away from earth, let us meditate and gaze and worship until He, who is the outshining of the divine glory, shines into our very heart. Until the Creator, Upholder and Heir of all things be to us the beginning and the center and the end of all."

#### **5. WHAT HAVE WE LOST TODAY?**

This is one of the things we have lost in our modern day pursuit of so-called relevance in the church. Rather than being focused on God and His Glory we have settled for teachings about improving our quality of life on earth. We have missed the whole point of God's revelation of Himself in scripture. The Bible is not a self-improvement manual no matter how we spin it. It is a revelation of the Glory of God seen at its peak in the spectacular glory seen in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Man has a tendency to drift away from our moorings if left unchecked. This is what happened to the Hebrews 30+ years after pentecost. Establishing a doctrinal foundation to undergird our life is critical in these difficult times. This is our heritage. Let all things be done for the Glory of God. After all, all things come from Him, through Him, and for Him. Glory to God!!!!

#### **6. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE UNIVERSE IF HE WAS NOT UPHOLDING ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER?**

*Hebrews 1:3, "who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"*

Chrysostom says that the miracle of God sustaining and upholding all things is even greater than His miracle of creation. According to this verse He upholds everything by the same power that He created everything. Remember the act of creation? He spoke, *“Let there be light”*, and light came into being. Everything that is, was created by the power of His word. It is that same authority of the Word of God that holds everything together. His word is the unseen X-factor that literally is the glue that keeps creation from collapsing on itself. Without His word the universe would \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## 7. HOW IS OUR WORLD KEPT FROM BREAKING INTO PIECES?

Matthew Henry writes, “He upholds all things by the word of His power: He keeps the world from dissolving. By Him all things consist. The weight of the whole creation is laid upon Christ: He supports the whole and all the parts. When, upon the apostasy, the world was breaking to pieces under the wrath and curse of God, the Son of God, undertaking the work of redemption, bound it up again, and established it by His almighty power and goodness.”

Not only was the world breaking to pieces as a result and ramification of the fall, all our lives were falling to pieces. Jesus is the restorer and upholder of those broken lives. Without His involvement in our everyday lives implosion is inevitable. With Christ at the center of our world, He causes even the attacks and even poor choices to work together for our good. *He is \_\_\_\_\_!.*

## 8. IF THAT IS TRUE WHAT EFFECT DOES THE WORD OF GOD HAVE IN OUR LIVES?

God’s word sustains, blesses, heals, and empowers every arena of our lives. His word brings provision on a daily basis, His word heals our bodies, His word calms every storm in our lives, and His word keeps the enemy at bay.

**So it is the Word of God that is always operating that orchestrates the future events of the world and of our own personal lives. Think about it like this, there is a man sitting on the throne of God who loves you and has your best interests at heart. He loves and cares for each one of us. His word is working all things together for your good, He is sustaining and upholding every detail of your life.**

**Pastor Frank Bailey**

## 9. IS THE LORD INVOLVED IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES?

*Colossians 1:17 says, "And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."*

He bears all things. He upholds everything, every moment by the word of His power. Most people believe in God; at least they believe someone or something exists that created all things. What is hard for many people to believe and actually see, is His involvement in our lives, especially in a personal, day to day manner. I believe that is exactly the kind of God we have and this verse says exactly that. He is sustaining "all things" in the universe; my life is literally in His hands. The unexpected curves or roadblocks (or even train wrecks) are not unexpected to Him. They are actually the stepping stones to His purposes and plans in my life. Knowing Christ as sovereign, actually holding everything together, changes everything in my life. Maybe He does have the whole world in His hand.

## **ANSWER KEY**

- 3. Jesus Christ
- 4. Jesus
- 6. Deteriorate into chaos.
- 7. Upholding us by His word.

## GOD OF MIRACLES

### *“Bearing Witness to Your Testimony”*

*Hebrews 2:2-4, “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also **bearing witness** both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”*

#### 1. WHAT DOES THE METAPHOR “SLIPWAY” MEAN?

*Hebrews 2:1, “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*

Pastor Parris Bailey, “A few years ago I took my grandkids on a river expedition. We went with shovels in our hands to retrieve a sunken boat. It has been months since a good rain, so things deep within the river emerged. It didn’t take long for all of us to give up and let it be, for it was far too gone and sunk too deep in the sand. I couldn’t help but think about the life of the boat and how it was useful at some point in its life. Maybe some careless fisherman left it on the bank without an anchor and the boat lost its moorings during the latest flood. Or it had been buried for years and shallow water made it appear like a ghost of the past. But regardless, the boat sits at the bottom forgotten and rotting away. The writer of Hebrews warns us that we too could “slip” and become a forgotten memory in the sands of time.

Gill said, in his commentary, “the metaphor “slipway” seems to be taken from leaking vessels, which let out what is put into them; so becomes useless; and which is expressive of unprofitable hearing of the word, through inattention, negligence, and forgetfulness.” As in all of us, we leak and it is pretty evident our nation too has lost its moorings and running a drift. What’s our answer? To give heed to the things we have seen, heard, read, felt and know. To end up at the bottom of a river while the waters of time roll over me and the sands of memories smother isn’t the way I want to end my Christian journey.

## 2. WHAT ARE WE IN DANGER OF DRIFTING AWAY FROM?

McClaren says, “We are in danger of drifting unconsciously from the anchorage of our faith – namely, the great words which we have heard. The currents that are brought to bear upon us run as strong as do any that are marked on charts and are the terror of sailors, and they need as careful steering and as great engine-power to resist them. There is the current of years. Time changes us all; and there is many a professing Christian who all unconsciously has slid away from his early better self, and is not now as devout a man – or with his life as completely under the influence of Christ and His gospel as he was in the early days. He keeps up appearances, but they are deceptive, and years have carried him down the stream and away from his old self.”

There are many of us who have closed our hands on the precious treasures of the gospel, and we like the fishermen have become either too familiar, careless or battle torn and through the process of time, let the treasure drift away.

**“Let this not be you! Let us go forth and pray and engage with others who need Christ. It is no time like the present time for harvest!” Pastor Parris Bailey**

## 3. WHAT IS A SIMPLE WAY TO ENGAGE WITH OTHERS?

\_\_\_\_\_, and watch as the Lord comes alongside to confirm it.

*Hebrews 2:4, “while God also **BORE WITNESS** by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.”*

The Christian life is by nature supernatural. We are not expected to make things happen, we can only yield and watch things happen. We are witnesses of His work, not really the author of anything. That takes the pressure off of us, who amongst us can perform a miracle anyway? This verse of scripture describes the incredible way the Lord bears witness to our testimony with His amazing display of the supernatural.

Dick Mills has some good insight on this verse. “The Greek word translated bearing witness here is a triple compound: sunepimartureo (soon-ep-ee-mar-too-reh’-o). It is composed of three elements: sun (“alongside”), epi (“in addition to”), and martureo (“to witness and testify”). Thus this verse says that if you will give your testimony to an unbelieving world, the Lord will come alongside and add His witness and testimony to yours. When the Lord bears witness, it will be with signs, wonders, diverse miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Supernatural confirmation is thus promised to you.”

#### 4. HOW DOES THE LORD BEAR WITNESS TO YOUR TESTIMONY?

I will never forget the first sermon I preached when the Lord brought me to pastor in New Orleans. That first service only had a handful of young people present. The Lord displayed His Glory that first day, to my amazement, several of them gave their hearts to the Lord that morning. 41 years have passed since that day and I know of several of them who are still serving the Lord; one is pastoring in a nearby congregation. The Lord bore witness to my inexperienced preaching, with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. The work of God is exactly that, the work of God. All He is looking for is yielded vessels. Are you one of those yielded vessels? What does it take to be used by the Lord in miracles? All it takes is yieldedness, a willingness to look foolish as you testify to what you have seen and heard, the rest is up to Him.

#### GOD OF MIRACLES

**“It is the Living God that we believe in, not miracles standing on their own. If there is a Living God then miracles are a sure thing. He is not dead, He is not silent, and He refuses to stay uninvolved. Take a look around today and I am certain you will see miracles flowing from the hand of our Lord.”**

**Pastor Frank Bailey**

#### 5. HOW DO WE KEEP OURSELVES FROM SLIPPING BACK?

By \_\_\_\_\_ in the One who has undertaken the work of our sanctification and who can help you in times of temptation.

*Hebrews 2:11;17-18, “11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren...17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, **that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.** 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”*

## ANSWER KEY

3. Share Your Testimony
4. Signs, Wonders, and Miracles
5. Believing

# Week Three

## CONSIDER JESUS

### *“The Apostle and the High Priest”*

*Hebrews 3:1, “Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.”*

#### 1. WHAT DOES THE WORD CONSIDER MEAN?

To "consider" Christ means to behold Him, not simply by a passing glance or giving to Him an occasional thought, but by the heart being fully occupied with Him.

“The word **“consider,”** from the root of the Latin word for **“star,”** originally means to **“contemplate the stars.”** It suggests the idea of the astronomer, and the quiet, patient, persevering, concentrated gaze with which he seeks to discover all that can be possibly known of the stars which the object of his study are. (Andrew Murray)

### **“ARE YOU LOOKING THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE OR THE TELESCOPE?”**

Microscopes focus on the smallest of things and blow them up bigger than they really are. A telescope takes things that are way too big to see and brings it into our view so we can grasp a glimpse of its greatness.

#### 2. WHY DO WE LOOK TO THE HEAVENS?

We look up and gaze to \_\_\_\_\_ our great God. Andrew Murray continues, “it is Jesus, who is God, who became man, and perfected our human nature in His wonderful life of suffering and obedience, and now dwells in heaven to communicate to us its life and blessedness—oh, what reason there is for saying, Consider Jesus. Gaze upon Him, contemplate Him. For some increased knowledge of the stars what devotion, what enthusiasm, what sacrifices are often times witnessed. Oh, let the study and possession of the Son of God waken our devotion and our enthusiasm, that we may be able to tell men what beauty and what glory there is in Jesus.”

### 3. HAVE YOU TAKEN A LONG LOOK AT JESUS LATELY?

“Sometimes the clatter of all of our problems distracts us. Everything from financial pressure to marital strife can block our view of the Lord. What is our response? Open up your Bible and begin to search it’s pages like an astronomer searches the heavens. You might catch a glimpse of one of the rays of His glory shining out from this Heavenly Body. You may feel the warmth of His love, taste the sweetness of His grace, or feel the power of His presence. Go ahead search the heavens in His written word, as you **Consider Jesus** who will become a very profound part of your life.”

- **CONSIDER JESUS! In light of all that is wrong with our world.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! When corruption comes from political offices.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! When shouts of racism and violence are in the streets.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! When terrorists call for death to America & Israel.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! When there is really nowhere else to turn.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! As the Creator who entered creation.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! As the radiance of the Father’s Glory.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! In His humility and suffering unto death.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! As He was raised from the dead by the power of God.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! As the glorified High Priest at the right hand of God.**
- **CONSIDER JESUS! As the heavenly Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.**

### 4. WHAT WERE THE DISCIPLES DOING ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST?

This is exactly what happened on the Day of Pentecost. The disciples had seen Jesus ascend into heaven just ten days before. They were contemplating Him in His glorified state. Peter said that the outpouring of glory on that Pentecostal morning was the result of Jesus being exalted to the right hand of God. When we see Jesus exalted to the right hand of the Father and glorify Him, we too will be swept away by that Pentecostal blessing.

### 5. WHAT DOES HEBREWS 3:1 CALL JESUS?

*Hebrews 3:1, “Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,”*

**APOSTLE:** The term apostle means one "sent forth" of God, endowed with authority as His ambassador. His purpose was to make known the will of His Father unto His people. His special call to that function was immediate: "as My Father hath sent Me, so send I you" (John 20:21).

**HIGH PRIEST:** As "Priest," He is our representative before God. As the Apostle He speaks to us from God, as our High Priest He speaks for us to God. The two offices are conjoined in John 13:3, "He was from God, and went to God."

## 6. WHY ARE THESE TWO OFFICES JOINED TOGETHER?

Brian Simmons writes in the Passion Translation study notes, “God joins the apostolic and priestly ministries together in Christ.... Jesus could not be a “High Priest” for He was not born of the tribe of Levi, or a descendant of Aaron, but was of the tribe of Judah. So the word priest here is not, *cohen*, but the Aramaic word, *kumrea*, the word used for Jethro and Melchizedek. (See Genesis 14:18; Exodus 2:16; 3:1; 18:1)

*Hebrews 2:17 NKJV*, “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a **merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**”

*Hebrews 2:17 KJV*, “... a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, **to make reconciliation** for the sins of the people.”

*Hebrews 2:17 TPT*, “This is why he had to be a Man and take hold of our humanity in every way. He made us his brothers and sisters and became our merciful and faithful **King-Priest** before God; as the One who removed our sins to make us one with him.”

## 7. CHRIST ON EARTH BUILT HIS HOUSE, HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE A PART OF HIS HOLY BROTHERHOOD?

*Hebrews 3:6*, “but Christ as a Son over His house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”

“Scattered all over the earth—belonging to every kindred, people, tongue, and nation—distinguished from one another in an almost infinite variety of ways, as to talent, temper, education, rank, circumstances, yet bound together by an invisible band, even the faith of the truth, to the one great object of their confidence, and love, and obedience, Christ Jesus—forming one great brotherhood, devoted to the honor and service of His Father and their Father, His God and their God! **Do you belong to this holy brotherhood?** The question is an important one. For answer, note Christ’s words in Matthew 12:50, “For whoever does the \_\_\_\_\_ of My Father in heaven, he is My brother, and sister and mother.” (Dr. J. Brown).

## 8. WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF HEBREWS SAY WE BECOME IF WE REMAIN STEADFAST?

Just like in Hebrews 2 where the writer of the book of Hebrews warns of the dangers of “slipping away” he continues here in Hebrews 3:12-14, “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.”

## 9. WHAT DOES THE WORD PARTAKERS SIGNIFY?

"Partakers of the heavenly calling." ...The word "partakers" signifies "sharers of."...Because of their union with the incarnate Son, whose excellency is imputed to them, and whose position they share. We are partakers of the heavenly calling because He, in wondrous condescension, partook of our earthly lot. **What He has, we have; where He is, we are. He is the Holy One of God, therefore are we holy. He has been "made higher than the heavens," therefore are we "partakers of the heavenly calling!"** Just so far as our hearts really lay hold of this, shall we walk as "strangers and pilgrims" here. Where our "Treasure" (Christ) is, there will our hearts be also. That is why we are here bidden to ***"Consider Him."***

# ANSWER KEY

- 2. See
- 7. Will
- 8. Partakers

# Week FOUR

## TODAY

### *“We Can Enter His Rest!”*

*Hebrews 4:7, “again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.”*

#### 1. WHAT PROMISE DOES HE EXTEND TO US TODAY?

*Hebrews 4:1 says, “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.”*

At the end of chapter 3 in verse 18 the writer warns the people of the danger of not entering His rest due to unbelief. Chapter 4 opens with a huge statement, that this promise did not cease with those who died in the wilderness but that this promise still remains. **WE CAN ENTER HIS \_\_\_\_\_ TODAY!** A place of answered prayer, hearing His voice, communion with the Father, where we cease from our works and yield to His ways. Where our enemies are defeated and our Lord leads the way. A place where we find mercy and grace to help in our time of need. Where we can enter into the throne room and remain there. Where joy unspeakable is not an unattainable promise that will be fulfilled in the sweet by and by but that we can experience on a daily basis regardless of our circumstances. This place of Rest is a place where we cease striving to work, obtain and please the Living God, but rather where we receive of His fullness and drink in His mercy and where His goodness passes before us and we see His glory. Later in the book of Hebrews the writer calls this **“a new and better way,” or “a life behind the veil.”** where we are living daily in His presence and enjoying all of His benefits. Sounds like the promise land to me. Don't stop short of what He is offering you. **DRAW NEAR TODAY.** (kb)

#### 2. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CEASE THE DAY TODAY?

*Hebrews 4:6-7, “Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a*

*certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.”*

Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow? Believe it or not, that is how much of the world lives. The other common deception is I am going to get it together or things are going to change when such and such happens. The problem is tomorrow never comes and such and such never shows up. Living in the **NOW** is what God is all about. As a matter of fact when Moses persisted in getting God’s name do you remember what the Lord said? He said tell them “I am” sent you. Actually the Lord is the Creator of time and lives outside of this creation controlled by time. In other words the Lord lives in the ever present Today of eternity. God is always now, His word is always now, prayer is always now, and our place of rest and happiness in God is in the very eternal Today of God. “Today if you hear His voice !” So don’t hesitate or wait for a better moment to sort out your relationship with God. Today is the day of salvation, **RIGHT NOW** is the moment to enter into His rest of joy.

### **3. WHY IS TODAY A WONDERFUL PROMISE?**

Andrew Murray writes, “Today! It is a word of wonderful promise. It tells that Today, this very moment, the wondrous love of God is for thee—it is even now waiting to be poured out into thy heart; that Today, all that Christ has done, and is now doing in heaven, and is able to do within thee—this very day, it is within thy reach. Today the Holy Ghost, in whom there is the power to know and claim and enjoy all that the Father and the Son are waiting to bestow, Today the Holy Ghost is within thee, sufficient for every need, equal to every emergency. With every call we find in our Bible to full and entirely surrender; with every promise we read of grace for the supply of temporal and spiritual need; with every prayer we breathe, and every longing that rules in our heart, there is the Spirit of promise whispering, Today. Even as the Holy Ghost saith, Today.”

### **4. IN ORDER TO ENTER HIS REST WHAT MUST WE ALLOW TO SPEAK TO US?**

*Hebrews 4:12, “For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.”*

God’s \_\_\_\_\_, it is said to be alive. I love the way this verse reads in the Amplified Bible, “For the Word that God speaks...” God is always speaking. One of the most common yet powerful ways The Lord speaks to us is through His written words. He will take a scripture verse and apply it directly and personally to our own lives by His Spirit...We should never take lightly the written word. It is more than a handbook, way more. When the Word of God becomes personal to us, literally all things become possible.

## 5. IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE REST WE REQUIRE IN OUR TIMES OF NEED WHO MUST WE DRAW NEAR TO AND WHERE WILL WE FIND HIM?

*Hebrews 4:14-16, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly (**DRAW NEAR**) unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

We are always in need of help, the Lord has ample help available for us and is always willing to help us in our struggles in this crazy world. In today's verse, Paul describes for us the real, tangible help available to us in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Because He is our faithful high priest, we can come into His presence, our sins have been removed, and we can find supernatural assistance in all of life's endeavors. Paul describes this help even further in Romans 8:26, he says that the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. This word "helps" is a translation of the Greek word "sunantilambanomai", it is a powerful word describing God's intervention into our lives. The word describes someone pulling together with us against whatever weaknesses we are dealing with in our lives. What a powerful promise and benefit!. He helps us, I mean really helps us through the minefields that are scattered across our world.

## 6. WHAT KIND OF HELP DO WE RECEIVE FROM OUR HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST WHEN WE SIN?

In 1 John, John describes help that we receive from our Heavenly High Priest when we sin. He said we have an advocate (parakletos) with the Father. **ADVOCATE- HELPER –PARAKLETOS**

Dick Mills definition of this powerful word is, "The word signifies an intercessor, comforter, helper, advocate, counselor. In non-biblical literature parakletos had the technical meaning of an attorney in court on another's behalf. The Holy Spirit leads believers to a greater apprehension of gospel truths. In addition to general help and guidance, He gives the strength to endure the hostility of the world system." What a powerful promise from the Lord.

- He is our **INTERCESSOR**, praying for us to His Father.
- He is our **COMFORTER**, comforting and encouraging us with His nearness.
- He is our **HELPER**, His love and power helps us in our daily activities and challenges.
- He is our **ADVOCATE**, He represents me before the Father. How much better could it be? Christ's perfection is seen as mine by my Father in heaven.

- He is my **COUNSELOR**. Because I have access into His presence by His blood, I can now hear His voice. He speaks and we are strengthened. His words are counsel to our souls. Not only does He give us accurate information and answers, His words strengthen us to do His will.

So I have to agree with Paul, we can find grace to help in our time of need. What kind of help are you needing today? Go ahead, ask Him. I promise, you will never be disappointed, He always answers. Just ask and you will find yourself suddenly in His presence, the place where we find help and encouragement for our souls.

## 7. WHAT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST PROMISES THAT WE HAVE TODAY?

*Hebrews 4:16, "Let us then with confidence **DRAW NEAR** to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (ESV)*

Andrew Murray writes, "We have free access into our Father's presence all of the time. Our access is not dependent on our own righteousness or goodness, I am thankful for that. Our access is based on the righteousness and goodness of Christ. We can come into His very presence and find help in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in. "It is the believer's privilege to have access at all times to his heavenly Father. Whatever our desires, our difficulties, our wants, we are at liberty to spread all before him. It matters not how much we may have sinned, we may ask and expect pardon. It signifies nothing how poor we are, we may plead his promise that he will provide all things needful. We have permission to approach his throne at all times-in midnight's darkest hour, or in noontide's most burning heat. Exercise thy right, O believer, and live up to thy privilege. Thou art free to all that is treasured up in Christ-wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. It matters not what thy need is, for there is fullness of supply in Christ, and it is there for thee. O what a freedom is thine! freedom from condemnation, freedom to the promises, freedom to the throne of grace, and at last freedom to enter heaven!"

So what condition do you find yourself in this morning? Are you worried or confused? Are you being tempted to return to the sins of the past? There is real help for you whatever you may be facing. There is not only help, there is well timed help. Look to Him, **DRAW NEAR** with confidence to the arms of your Father. He cares for you deeply, He has provided the way of escape.

# ANSWER KEY

1. Rest
4. Word
5. Presence of God

## GROWING UP SPIRITUALLY!

*“In Blessing I will Bless Thee”*

*Hebrews 5:14, “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”*

### 1. WHO ORDAINED CHRIST AS A HIGH PRIEST FOREVER?

*Hebrews 5:5,6;9,10, “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him:“You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”;...And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”*

Brian Simmons (TPT) writes, “Apparently, many Jewish believers were having difficulty with Jesus being our High Priest. Since he was not from Aaron’s lineage from the tribe of Levi. The Holy Spirit is showing us that His priesthood is not on the basis of lineage, but the supernatural calling of God, much like Melchizedek. The meaning of the name Melchizedek is “King of righteousness.”

### 2. WHAT IS THE KEY TO GROWING UP SPIRITUALLY?

I think there is probably way too many Christians that are still babes in Christ. According to the scripture, our spiritual diet has a whole lot to do with our spiritual growth. As the famous saying goes “we are what we eat”. The book of Hebrews is dealing with that exact problem. Christians were eating the wrong spiritual food and never could go on to maturity. What is the food that makes us grow? Well, if you remember, Jesus said that He was the true bread that comes down from heaven. He said He is our spiritual food. What Hebrews goes on to teach us is **the day, heavenly ministry of Jesus is the key to growing up spiritually.** Many never advance past the cross to the throne of God. Jesus is resurrected. Recognizing Christ as our heavenly high priest and receiving His ministry as the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit is the way we enter into this new heavenly life. We have been given life behind the veil, this is the new and living way that Hebrews calls us to.

## 2. HOW DO WE MATURE IN CHRIST?

*In Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity."*

Andrew Murray writes, "In the letter to the Hebrews, we discover that the recipients had long been Christians, who by then ought to have been teaching others. Instead, they were still like infants, needing to be fed milk. The writer attempts to rouse them to go beyond the elementary teachings about Christ, "not laying again the foundation of repentance." They were to go on to maturity, to the status of spiritual adults, and to more profound truths concerning Christ's priesthood and the fullness of their salvation. Because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He ever lives to intercede for them. This is the solid food of which the writer speaks."

**"So how is it with your soul today? Are you stuck between the two worlds, perpetually living as a babe in Christ? Nothing can be more frustrating than that. Draw near today to the throne of grace. There are not only answers to your prayers there, there is a brand new life available for us all."**  
**Pastor Frank Bailey**

## 3. SO WHAT MUST WE CHOOSE TO FIND EACH AND EVERY DAY?

*Hebrews 6:1, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection."*

Sometimes we just have to fight to hold onto our joy. We simply cannot listen to the voice of the stranger in our inner ear. Everyday we find the \_\_\_\_\_ so to speak in which we can learn to see the beauty of Christ in everything. Yes, I said in everything. Daily I must choose to taste and see that The Lord is good, for He is working in me a "far weightier glory". For how long do we press on? "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."(Ephesians 4:13, 14)

## 4. WHAT ARE WE IN DANGER OF IF WE DO NOT ADVANCE?

A.B. Simpson says it this way. "Let us now advance, let us make progress, let us grow in grace, let us not be easily satisfied with present attainments, for, unless we go on we shall surely go back. It is not safe to lose an inch of ground. "We are not of them who

draw back unto perdition.” The faintest drawing back may land us in perdition. There is no portion of the Holy Scriptures so filled with impressive warnings against backsliding as this. In two of its leading chapters, the sixth and tenth, we are told of the peril of the soul that falls away, and the only remedy against falling away is to go forward. Are we going on? And are we going unto perfection? Is our goal the very highest? Are we aiming at nothing less than the highest possibilities of a life of faith and service for God? Nothing less is safe, and nothing less is worthy of our high calling and our exceeding great and precious promises.”

## **5. WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF WE FIND OURSELVES STUCK AND LIVING THE SAME OLE SAME OLE EACH DAY?**

God creates in us a hunger that only He can fill. He wants us to stretch ourselves into deeper realms of glory, deeper realms of reaching out to people. Groundhog Day just isn't acceptable to the Christian. Our battle cry is still the same! Reaching out to a dying world with the message of Redemption. My advice to you if you feel well bored? Dive into the word of God, find a good church that will actually challenge you and **PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL SEND HIS FIRE! FRESH WIND FROM HEAVEN.**

## **6. WHY SHOULD WE REACH OUT TO OTHERS?**

*Hebrews 6:10, “For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.”*

Humans have a short memory, “what have you done for me lately?” The Lord is not like us, He remembers everything. His record keeping is perfect. The only things He ever forgets are the sins that were held against us until calvary. If you are a Christian, your entire past is nonexistent, nailed with Jesus Christ to the cross. When we stand before the Lord as a Christian, only our works since conversion will be reviewed, the rest is forgotten. This is where it gets interesting. He remembers everything. He remembers every tear (they are stored in a bottle in heaven), He remembers every prayer (they are in His incense bowl before the throne), He remembers every offering (they are being accumulated for our eternal reward). Yep, He remembers everything. He remembers every soul we witnessed, every act of kindness we performed, every time we preferred others in countless opportunities. I wonder if our lives would change much if we realized He was taking notice of everything that happens.

## **7. WHAT IS ONE OF THE AMAZING EXAMPLES OF THE LORD TAKING NOTICE OF SOMEONE'S ACTIONS?**

One amazing example of how observant He is is the story of the widow's mite. It says in the scripture that He was standing in the temple treasury watching how people gave their offerings (by the way, He still does that today). He said that this woman, whose offering was less than a penny, had given more than the rich because she had given everything. His judgement system is quite different from what we are used to. He has a

huge advantage, He looks at the heart and judges our thoughts and intentions, nothing escapes His notice. Matthew Henry writes, “what is done to any in the name of God shall not go unrewarded!”

## 8. HOW SHALL WE INHERIT THE PROMISES OF GOD?

*Hebrews 6:11,12, “And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”*

Through \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. If you pay close attention in the book of Hebrews you will begin to see the Holy Spirit connecting the dots. Part of the time the author is exhorting us to endure with patience; the rest of the time he is calling us to a life of renewal, he calls it **“the new and living way.”** The more we **DRAW NEAR** and experience life behind the veil, the stronger we become....So have another drink. You know what I mean, a drink of the Holy Spirit new wine. This is where renewal comes from, this is where we are strengthened in the Lord daily to finish our race with joy. So take some time to be in His presence today, He will strengthen you for whatever comes.

## 9. WHAT ARE WE PROMISED IF WE PERSEVERE, AND PATIENTLY ENDURE?

*Hebrews 6:14,15, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”*

Andrew Murray writes, “Every believer who will but claim, and give himself up to the blessing of God, will find that the blessing is a power of the divine life which will make him fruitful in blessing to others, and make it true of him too, multiplying I will multiply thee. Even we, like Christ, can become priests, bringing the blessing of God to those who know Him not. It is when this fullness of blessing in its divine energy, when this blessing I will bless thee begins to be understood, and the soul sees that there is something beyond the mere being saved from wrath, that there is a becoming the recipient, and the channel, and the dispenser, of life and blessing to others, that it becomes willing to sacrifice everything, and in longsuffering to endure until it obtain the promise.”

# ANSWER KEY

- 2. Present
- 3. Portal
- 8. Faith and Patience

## THE ANCHOR OF MY SOUL

*“Our Sure and Steadfast Hope”*

*Hebrews 6:19,20, “We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.”*

### 1. HOW CAN WE REMAIN SURE AND STEADFAST?

Matthew Henry writes, “We are in this world as a ship at sea, liable to be tossed up and down, and in danger of being cast away. Our souls are the vessels. The comforts, expectations, graces, and happiness of our souls are the precious cargo with which these vessels are loaded. Heaven is the harbor to which we sail. The temptations, persecutions, and afflictions that we encounter, are the winds and waves that threaten our shipwreck. We have need of an \_\_\_\_\_ to keep us sure and steady, or we are in continual danger. It is steadfast as to its object; it is an anchor that has taken good hold, **it enters that which is within the veil; it is an anchor that is cast upon the rock, the Rock of Ages.** It does not seek to fasten in the sands, but enters within the veil, and fixes there upon Christ; he is the object, he is the anchor-hold of the believer’s hope. As an unseen glory within the veil is what the believer is hoping for, so an unseen Jesus within the veil is the foundation of his hope...”

### 2. WHO IS HOLDING US IN HIS FIRM GRIP?

What kind of storm are you going through today? Maybe you are facing health issues that seem to be too much for you to bear. Or maybe things have gone very bad with your finances or maybe you are even out of work. Someone may be facing a personal crisis in their family or marriage. All of us are trudging through the cultural storm that seems to be baring down on the very principles of our Christian faith. No matter what kind of storm you are caught in, we all have an anchor. Christ has entered into heaven itself on our behalf, He is praying for us and holding us in His firm grasp.

### 3. WHERE IS THE ANCHOR FASTENED AND TO WHAT IS IT HELD SECURE?

*Hebrews 6:19-20 (TPT), “We have this certain hope like a strong, unbreakable anchor holding our souls to God himself. Our anchor of hope is*

*fastened to the mercy seat which sits in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold, and where Jesus, our forerunner, has gone in before us. He is now and forever our royal Priest like Melchizedek."*

#### **4. WHY IS OUR HOPE SURE AND STEADFAST?**

The Hebrew word for "rope" is "hope". Our hope is steadfast because we have an anchor tied to a rope that is attached to the ship. When we remain in the ship (the body of Christ) our hope lies in the fact that we have an \_\_\_\_\_ attached to Christ our High Priest Himself who has passed into the holy of holies whose blood is sprinkled on the mercy seat. Here He hears us, forgives us, heals us, delivers us and provides for us in every way. Our hope is secure and steadfast. (kb)

#### **5. HOW DOES THIS HELP ME WHEN I FEEL LIKE MY SHIP IS FALLING APART?**

*Hebrews 4:16, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

Back in Hebrews 4:16 we find the word "help" which also means "rope." Paul was talking about help in the midst of a life threatening storm in this verse. How do I know? He used the most unusual word for "help" in this verse. It is an ancient nautical term called "**boethia**" in Greek. This is the definition **boetheia** – aid; specially, a rope or chain for frapping a vessel: **frap** – nautical term; to bind or wrap tightly with ropes or chains.

Paul was talking about a tactic sailors in his day used when a ship was being beaten by a storm and threatened to be broken apart. They would take ropes or chains and literally wrap the boat with these bands to strengthen the vessel. This would hold the wooden ship together against the pounding of the waves. Now do you see what Paul was trying to tell us? He was saying that we could be 'frapped', held together or helped by the strongest cords of all. We are held by the bonds of God's love. Nothing can destroy us because we are helped by God. So this verse tells us that we can draw near to the throne of grace with confidence in the midst of our storm and find help no matter what we may be facing.

This word, boetheia, is used one other time in the New Testament. It is found in Acts when Paul was traveling to Rome as a prisoner. The ship was caught up in a storm and the sailors used frapping to help save the vessel. *Acts 27:17 "Which when they had taken up, they used **helps**, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven."*

#### **6. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF HELP WE CAN FIND FROM THE LORD?**

All of us need help! I recently searched through the Bible looking for the type of help that comes from the Lord, here is some of what I found.

- A. **BOETHIA**- As we learned above, this is really an archaic nautical term that is no longer in use which means help. Our English equivalent is FRAP. This is a picture of what kind of help we get from the Lord during the storms of life. He fraps us, literally wrapping us in Himself to keep us from being torn to pieces by the storms of life.
- B. **EPIKOURIA** or “ally” means “help” seen in Acts 26:22 “Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—” Paul is describing how the Lord has been his ally in all the attacks and challenges in his life. In other words, the Lord Himself stands up for us in the midst of our enemies, He is our Ally.
- C. **SUNANTILAMBANOMAI**- This word describes the Holy Spirit joining with us to “help” us against our struggles as we pray in the Spirit. Paul also describes practical help that we receive from the Holy Spirit in the midst of our weaknesses. He says in Romans 8:26, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
- D. **BOETHEO**- This word means to succor or help us in times of distress. This is how the word is used in Hebrews 2:18, “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted”. If you are going through times of stress He is there to help.
- E. **PARAKLETOS**- This is the famous title that Jesus gave the Holy Spirit, He is the one who is called alongside to help us in every situation of life. He literally never leaves us and is always present to help. This is how Jesus said it, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—”

## ANSWER KEY

1. Anchor
4. Anchor

## OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER

*“Totally and Completely”*

*Hebrews 7:25, “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”*

### 1. WHO DID ABRAHAM GIVE TITHES TO?

*Hebrews 7:1-3, “For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.”*

Melchizedek was a type of Christ. Jesus is our High Priest and His priesthood is unchangeable!

### 2. CHRIST GIVES US THE BLESSING. WHAT DO WE GIVE HIM IN RETURN?

*Hebrews 7:8, “Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.”*

Andrew Murray writes, “These are indeed the spiritual blessings in the heavenlies with which God hath blessed us in Christ and which, as High Priest, Christ dispenses. He brings us to the Father, and we learn to know that He blesses and keeps us. In Him, the Son, God’s face shines upon us, and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is our portion. In Him God lifts up His countenance upon us, and, by the Holy Spirit, give His peace unto our hearts. Christ the High Priest makes every part of this blessing a divine reality, a living experience in the power of a life that abides continually. Christ gives us the blessing, we give Him the tithes. The tithes to God are an acknowledgement of His right to all. Our High Priest has a right to the surrender of all we have, as belonging to Him, to the willing sacrifice of all He asks or needs for His service. The connection between the

tithes and the blessing is closer than we know. The more unreservedly we place all that we have at His disposal, the more we in very deed forsake all for His sake, the richer will our experience be of the fulness and the power which our High Priest can bless.”

### **3. WHAT IS ONE OF THE FIRST TEST WE MUST PASS IN OUR CHRISTIAN WALK?**

One of the first tests we all have to pass in our Christian walk is the decision to \_\_\_\_\_. I am grateful to God that I was taught about the importance and sacredness of the tithe as a new Christian. In my interview at Bible School (I had been saved two weeks when I enrolled) the director asked me if I was a tither (I had no idea what he was talking about). As he picked up on my greenness, he graciously taught me about the tithe. I love that story. My wife and I had just gotten married with seven hundred dollars to our name. As I sat in the director’s office learning about the tithe, I realized I had seventy dollars left after I paid my school tuition. I joyfully (with a little fear and trembling) deposited my first tithe in the tithe box that afternoon. My adventure had started, I was yielding myself to God, He began delivering on all the promises I inherited as His son. He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ.

### **4. WHAT DOES OUR HIGH PRIEST DO FOR US?**

He brings us to a better hope through which we **DRAW NEAR** to God. He is our High Priest forever and has become a surety of a better covenant. His priesthood is unchangeable. So Hebrews 7:25 says, *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”*

### **5. WHAT DOES THE WORD “UTTERMOST” MEAN?**

*Hebrews 7:25, “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”*

To me, this verse is breathtaking!!! Uttermost!! One of those words we seldom use or hear but it carries rich meaning for all of us helping us to understand the nature of salvation and conversion. Uttermost, first of all, means \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. This salvation, purchased by the cross and enacted by His intercession, changes us completely. It is more than a cover up of past sins but a destruction of who we once were and the creation of a brand new you. Redemption is made complete as we are transformed into beautiful sons and daughters. Secondly, this work of salvation is eternal. Uttermost reeks of permanence. We are saved by grace never to return to what and who we once were. We are thoroughly and totally transformed.

## 6. HAVE YOU RECOGNIZED JESUS' CURRENT HEAVENLY MINISTRY?

*Hebrews 7:25, "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

When Jesus was on earth not everyone recognized who He was. There He was, Creator of all things, walking amongst them and they didn't have a clue. Haven't you ever wondered about that? You probably came to the conclusion, 'that wouldn't be me, I would have recognized Him'. Oh really! Think about this, Jesus, the man, is still alive and still has a vital ministry. He is at the Father's right hand representing fallen man as a perfect man. Have you acknowledged His heavenly ministry. Knowing Christ in this way is the only way to secure that life as more than a conqueror right here right now. Don't be that clueless one, the one who doesn't even notice His current ministry designed to be a blessing to you.

**"Seeing this is really incredible; Jesus represents me before the Father. By faith I access this place in Christ, after all I am seated together in heavenly places with Christ. This is what was purchased for me at the cross, access into the holiest of all. I have this access to life in the Father's presence in Christ. This is where I find power, healing, provision, protection, and life itself." Pastor Frank Bailey**

# **ANSWER KEY**

- 3. Tithe
- 6. Totally and Completely

## THE MINISTER OF THE SANCTUARY

*“He Came to Serve not to be Served”*

*Hebrews 8:1,2, “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”*

### 1. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR HEAVENLY LIFE?

The heavenly ministry of Jesus cannot be overestimated or over emphasized; His present day ministry is the source of our heavenly life. When Jesus entered into heaven as a man He entered for us. Not only did He bring His blood as an offering before the Father, He sat down at the right hand of God. This was not new for the Son of God, He had been with the Father from eternity. This was new for fallen man. Not only are our sins forgiven, we now have access into the heavenly places, the heavenly life, right now. We are seated together with Him at the right hand of the Father. This heavenly life is what was purchased for us on the cross. The fact that the man, Jesus of Nazareth, remains in the Father's presence is my hope. He is called the anchor of hope that has entered behind the veil.

Andrew Murray, “ Heaven, we have said before, is not only a place, but a state of life; the kingdom of heaven can come to us here on earth in power, and be set up within our hearts...All Jesus is, is heavenly; all the gifts He bestows, all the work He does, all the life He breathes, all the power He exercises is exclusively heavenly”

**“This is the solution to all of life's dramas. Rather than floundering in the dark places of this fallen culture and world we can rise up into this heavenly life that has been offered to us. We do have a Priest King in heaven, His very existence guarantees the promise of heavenly life.” Pastor Frank Bailey**

## 2. DOES THE LORD NEED TO BE SERVED?

John 5:35 says that we need to be a “*burning and shining light*”. A shining light like a torch. Light speaks of revelation and an anointing that brings an awakening. But man, instead of receiving from the Lord’s fullness, try in their own efforts to “serve the Lord”.

*Acts 17:24-25 says, “The God who made the world and everything in it. Being Lord over heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, **nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything**, since He gives to all mankind life, breath and everything.”*

The word served here in the Greek *is therapeuo* , to wait upon, to adore or to relieve. It is like the word therapy or therapeutic. God is not in need of “therapy”. God is self sufficient in Himself. He doesn’t need relief or help!

### ***You have nothing to offer to God!***

God wants to do the serving. We are the one who is in lack and in need. We need Him to “serve” (*therapeuo*) us... To relieve us! Psalm 50:14, 15 says, “*Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.*” Answered prayer glorifies God.

***“...Thou dost seek us though Thou does not need us. We seek Thee because we need Thee, for in Thee we live and move and have our being. Amen.”***

***A.W. Tozer- The Knowledge of the Holy***

## 3. WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST?

### **HE IS THE MINISTER OF THE SANCTUARY**

Hebrews 8:1-2, “*Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A MINISTER OF THE SANCTUARY*”

***Mark 10:45, “the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*** Jesus ministered to people, He went about doing good to others. He laid hands on the sick etc. and they received from Him what they needed. They were satisfied and enhanced by Him and equipped to share His love to others. Consider the story when Jesus washed the disciples feet (John 13:4-9)

## **“He doesn’t have a help wanted sign in heaven, He has a Help available sign.” John Piper**

### **4. HOW DO WE MINISTER TO PEOPLE?**

This is how we minister to people- out of what we have received from Him!  
John Piper said, “ We are to glorify God by not serving Him, but by being served by Him.” Prayer is the needy calling out to the **ALL SUFFICIENT!!!!** **You are the Recipient- He is the Giver!**

With this mindset, “serving” Him becomes a pleasure! Ministry becomes the overflow of the life of Christ that is within. Overflow of what you have received... It begins to be more fun to pour out than to not!. You can’t help yourself. Ministry becomes the overflow of grace and joy. The grace of God comes in.... worship, prayer and giving come out... It is out of this overflow of grace that the joy of “serving” in the harvest is manifested.  
John 4:31-38

### **5. IF HE IS THE GIVER WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO OFFER?**

#### **CHRIST THE STOREHOUSE**

*Colossians 1:19, "For it pleased the Father that in Him (Christ) should all fullness dwell."*

"It pleased the Father that in Him should *all fullness* dwell." And, "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Eternity, Omniscience, Omnipotence and Infinite Glory all dwells in Christ. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Hence nothing is too hard for Him. Power, wisdom, truth, immutability, and all the attributes of God are in Him, and constitute a fullness ***inconceivable and inexhaustible.***

The Father has stored up in Christ Jesus, as in a reservoir, for the use of all His people, His eternal love and His unbounded grace, that it may come to us through Christ Jesus, and that we may glorify Him. All power is put into His hands; life, light, and grace, are to the full at His disposal. "He closes and no man opens, He opens and no man closes." He has received gifts for men; yea, for the righteous also. Not only as the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, is He the possessor of heaven and earth, and therefore filled with all fullness, but seeing that as the Mediator He has finished our redemption, "He is made of God unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." (Spurgeon)

*John 1:4, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.... And of His fullness we have all received, grace for grace." We receive out of His fullness superabundant Grace and Truth!*

Colossians 2:9, "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and ye are complete in Him."

***"An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others."***

— A.W. Tozer

## 6. HOW DO WE RECEIVE CHRIST AND HIS FULLNESS?

### A. EMPTY YOURSELF

Consider Christ that emptied Himself and took the form of a servant in Phil. 2 and "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." All saints receive of Christ, but no vessel can receive beyond the measure of its emptiness. The more full it is, so much the less is its capacity for reception. And the more empty it is, so much the greater the space which can be filled.

B. PRAISE HIS NAME Psalm 81:10, "Open wide your mouth and I will fill it."

### C. FEAST AT HIS TABLE

Receiving, also, often signifies in Scripture *entertaining*. ....Ah! After we have once found all in Christ to be our own, and have received Him into ourselves by faith, then we entreat the Lord to enter our hearts and sup with us. We give Him the best seat at the table of our souls; we would feast Him on the richest dainties of our choicest love. We ask Him to abide with us from morn till eve; we would commune with Him every day, and every hour of the day. We entertain Him; we have a reception-chamber in our hearts, and we receive Christ.

O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further GRACE." A.W. Tozer

### D. ENJOY HIM

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35*

And then, once again, receiving in Scripture often signifies *to enjoy*. If you were hungry and there were bread on the table, you would eat. Oh! Eat and drink, beloved, of your Lord Jesus Christ....Do not leave Him, like a bottle drink, sealed up from us; let Him not be as some choice dainty all un-tasted, while you are hungry. Oh! receive Christ, for this is the very heaven and rest of the soul. His flesh is meat indeed, His blood is drink indeed. (A-D Charles Spurgeon)

**EXTRA:**

**THE FULLNESS OF JESUS THE TREASURY OF SAINTS**

**An excerpt from a sermon preached in 1869 by Charles Spurgeon**

***John 1:6 “Of His fullness have we all received and grace for grace.”***

Fullness, indeed, must there be in Him when all these streams have been continually flowing, and yet He is not dry; when all these mouths have been filled, and yet the granary is not empty; when all these thirsty ones have had their drink, and yet the well springs up as free, as rich, as full as ever!

And now, after thousands and even myriads of blood-redeemed saints have drank of this life-giving stream, it is just as overflowing as ever!

If a child takes a cupful from the sea we say it is just as full as before, but that is not literally true—for there is less water in the ocean. But it is literally true of Christ, that when we have taken cups full of Divine Grace (yea oceans full)—for our needs are too great to be satisfied with such small quantities—there is actually as much left! Although we each have drawn upon the treasury of His love to an extent so boundless that we cannot understand it, yet there is as much mercy and Divine Grace left in Christ as there was before.

“Heaps upon heaps,” so our Lord has given to His people Divine Grace at such a rate that they have Grace upon Grace for abundance? They have received from Him such a plenitude of Divine Grace and the Truth of God (that it is if the) great Savior has piled mountains of Grace upon mountains of Grace—that on these, as on a stupendous ladder—His elect might climb to the Throne of God!

I would like to be always locked up in Christ’s pantry and never live on what I had before fed on, but feeding evermore! If you have received—come and receive again—you have not received the whole of Christ’s fullness yet! But all that is in Christ is meant to be received. Jesus Christ is like the sun—He is a storehouse of light, but the light is there to be shed abroad. He is like the clouds—a storehouse of waters, but all that is in Him is to descend in showers upon thirsty souls. There is nothing in Christ but what was meant to be distributed! He is like Joseph’s granaries in Egypt, full of corn for hungry men.

O Brothers and Sisters, here is a fullness which cannot be measured for length, or breadth, or depth—for He is filled with all the fullness of God! And in Christ there is a fullness of Grace to impart to us.

## LIVING IN HIS PRESENCE

*“Behind the Veil”*

*Hebrews 9:12, “He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”*

### 1. AS CHRISTIANS WHERE SHOULD WE LIVE OUR WHOLE LIFE?

Peter called us a royal priesthood. Every Christian is a kingly priest, I wish the full impact of what that means would settle in on us. In the Old Testament, the priests came from the tribe of Levi. These priests were called by God to a higher level of consecration than the rest of the nation of Israel. Their duties involved work in the temple near the very Shekinah Presence of the Lord. Consecration was essential. As Christians our whole life is to be lived in the proximity of the Shekinah. After all, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of that. If this is true, we have to value the blood of Jesus, it is through the blood that we offer ourselves in consecration as a living offering to the Lord.

### 2. WHAT IS THE MYSTERY OF HIS BLOOD?

Andrew Murray writes, “His own blood. I know of no word in the Bible or in human speech that contains such mysteries! In it are concentrated the mysteries of the incarnation, in which our God took flesh and blood; of the obedience unto death, in which the blood was shed; of the love that passeth knowledge, that purchased us with His own blood; of the victory over every enemy, and the everlasting redemption; of the resurrection and the entrance into heaven; of the atonement and the reconciliation and the justification that came through it; of the cleansing and perfecting of the conscience, of the sprinkling of the heart and the sanctifying the people. Through that blood Christ entered once for all into heaven; through that blood we enter too, and have our home in the Holiest of All.”

As the Holy Spirit from heaven, dwelling in us, imparts to us the boldness the blood gives, and the love into which it opens the way, our whole inner being will be brought under its power, and the cleansing of the blood in its full extent be our experience.”

**“We have a new home now. Just as the levitical priests made their home near the temple courts, we have made our home in the Holiest of All. We have access, not just in special times, but as a new way of life. Consecrate yourself to the Lord, Draw Near, there is a new and living way available to us.” Pastor Frank Bailey**

### **3. WHAT DOES HIS BLOOD CLEANSE US FROM?**

*Hebrews 9:14, “how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”*

The cleansing of our \_\_\_\_\_.

Many of us carry our past with us after we come to Christ. Our past sins, disappointments, offenses, and trauma can haunt us for the rest of our lives. The blood of Jesus is not only settling a legal debt that mankind owes, it also effects our conscience in a dramatic way. When we come into the Lord’s presence, which is made possible by His blood, there is a powerful healing and cleansing that takes place. It is as if our whole emotional being is washed clean from all of the effects the world has had upon throughout our lives. The power that our past had on us is broken. We are no longer carrying the past guilt, shame, fear, hurt, anger, and pain. Those things that dominated our thoughts for so long are no longer an issue. We have come to the cross and left our pains there. Our conscience is clean because of the precious blood of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

### **4. HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR HIM TO APPEAR A SECOND TIME?**

*Hebrews 9:26-28, “He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”*

Just as the people who lived during the first appearance of Jesus, those who are alive at His Second Coming will be caught by surprise. They will be going about their normal daily activities and suddenly, without warning, He will appear. Today is the day to

prepare our hearts like the wise virgins, make sure your lamp is full of oil, trimmed, and burning; looking for the sudden appearance of our Lord.

## 5. WHAT DO WE NEED TO REFINE US BEFORE HE COMES?

*Malachi 3:2, "Who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness."*

Pastor Parris Bailey writes, "We need the fire of the \_\_\_\_\_! Have you set up a wax museum? Have you been living in a dark rank moldy cellar in your walk? Well, you will know when the fires falls! All we need is to be delivered from self and sin, to see it, recognize it, call it by its right name, throw off the disguise of compromise and let God slay it!"

ESV study notes say, "Refiner's fire and fuller's soap stress both it's thoroughness and it's severity. The heat of the refiner's fire was intense in order to separate the dross from the molten pure metal. Similarly, the fuller used strong lye soap on the cloth then he would beat it." You see the Holy Spirit performs a double work on us, soap for outward cleansing and the fire for inward transformation. Fire penetrates where water and soap cannot break through. Fire cleanses and changes everything it touches besides the gold and silver. The more you burn them, they only improve. Do not fear the fire. Only as we partake of the divine nature does the fire refine us. So Holy Spirit Come! For it is then "the King's daughter" shall be "all glorious within, her clothing of wrought gold," which no flame can deface or destroy. Amen

# ANSWER KEY

- 3. Conscience
- 5. Holy Ghost

## **DRAW NEAR** *“By the New and Living Way”*

*Hebrews 10:19-22, “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”*

### **1. WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE TREASURE AVAILABLE TO US??**

This is the ultimate treasure available to all of us, we have been called to enter into the holiest of all. To the Old Testament Hebrew this is unthinkable. The holiest was the inner sanctum of the temple only accessible once a year by the High Priest. He would come in on the Day of Atonement and offer blood for the covering of their sins. The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus did this one time so that anyone who believes in Him could enter into the holiest, into Christ Himself, and make this his new home. We don't need a priest to go in for us, we can go in ourselves and live in this new way of life.

## **Unthinkable!!!**

This is why Jesus became a man, He offered His blood and entered into heaven itself on our behalf. Now man can not only approach the throne of God to receive answers to prayer, we can come into His presence and live in this new and living way. Christ opened up heaven for us, this is way more than just everlasting life, it is life in the immediate presence of Almighty God. This is a brand new way to live our lives.

### **2. WHAT SEPARATES CHRISTIANS FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD?**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. Even though Jesus has opened the way into the presence of God for us, most Christians never learn how to enter behind the veil, and

only a small number have learned to live there. What separates Christians from the presence of the Lord? What does this veil of flesh represent?

- A. **First, this veil speaks to us about the cares and desires of this present world.** There are so many distractions to keep us from His presence in the natural world. We have worries, fears, entertainment, personal goals, and ambitions, to mention just a few. These distractions separate us from the tangible presence of the Lord. These desires have to be replaced with a hunger for the Lord. When we begin to hunger and thirst for Him, we can push behind the veil.
- B. **This veil of flesh also speaks of religious traditions.** Many of us are caught up in traditions, programs, and formats that make it highly unlikely for there to be a move of God. The traditions of man, regardless of how spiritual they appear to be, keep us from experiencing the real God. These traditions keep us from what Jesus called worshipping Him in spirit and in truth, or in reality.
- C. **The veil also speaks to us about time.** In our fast-paced society, we have become extremely time conscious. The services in most churches can be predicted to end at a certain time. If the meeting goes much past that time, the people become restless and begin to look at their watches. How can God move in such a carnal environment? In order to move behind the veil, we must move beyond our user-friendly short services. We must take the time to wait upon the Lord. We must learn to sit quietly in His presence.

### **3. HOW SHOULD WE LIVE OUR LIVES THEN?**

*Hebrews 10:19-22, "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."*

This passage is the very heart of the book of Hebrews. This church in Jerusalem had once known the pentecostal power of God like no other. After all, this is where it all started. This was the church with tongues of fire on everyone's head and stammering lips and other tongues in every mouth. This was the epicenter of that explosion that had spread Christianity throughout Israel, Syria, Northern Africa, Asia Minor, and even to the shores of Europe. That explosion had happened a long time ago. Those that were still alive when Hebrews was written remembered those early days but the next generation really had no clue. It had been over thirty years since that initial outpouring and tradition and formalism now replaced the spontaneity of the pentecostal experience. Paul was

begging them to return to their roots. In this passage he is reminding them that they have access into the very Shekinah presence of the glory of the Lord.

**A. So Let us Draw Near**

**B. Let us hold fast our confession**

**C. Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works**

**D. Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together**

**“A true heart is the fruit or testimony of grace. The Lord attracts our hearts, our affections are awakened by Him. As we draw near, our hearts are consumed with His love. So let’s give heed to today’s word in Hebrews. Let us draw near with a true heart, a heart fully consumed with love for Jesus.”**

**Pastor Frank Bailey**

#### **4. WHY IS IT OFTEN HARD AFTER YOU ACCEPT JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR?**

*Hebrews 10:32-33 (TPT), “Don’t you remember those days right after the Light shined in your hearts? You endured a great marathon season of suffering hardships, yet you stood your ground. And at times you were publicly and shamefully mis-treated, being persecuted for your faith then at other times you stood side by side with those who preach the message of hope.”*

#### **5. HOW ARE WE TO LIVE?**

*Hebrews 10:35-36, “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:”*

*Hebrews 10:35-36 (TPT), “So don’t lose your bold, courageous faith, for you are destined for a great reward. You need the strength of endurance to reveal the poetry of God’s will and then you receive the promise in full. For soon and very soon, “The One who is appearing will come without delay!”*

#### **6. IF WE ARE NOT DRAWING NEAR, WHAT ARE WE DOING THEN?**

*Hebrews 10: 35-39, “Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: “For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not*

*tarry. Now the Just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul."*

“Christianity seems to be concentrating on what we can get by with rather than how much of Christ can we contain. There is no limit to that growth. It is like a spiral which goes up and up and up, and in every convolution ‘draws nearer to the centre, but never reaches it. Our hearts and spirits are wonderfully elastic. They can take in a great deal more of God than we think they can, or than they ever have taken in. We can receive just as much of that infinite life into our finite spirits as we will. Let us each strive to get more and more of Jesus Christ in us, that we may know Him, and the ‘power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings,’ more fully, more deeply, and may keep it more constantly. Oh, brethren! If we are not ascending the ladder that reaches to heaven, which is Christ Himself, we are \_\_\_\_\_; and if we are not growing we are dwindling; and if we cannot say that we are being sanctified, we are being made more and more common and profane.” Maclaren's Expositions

## **ANSWER KEY**

2. The Veil of the Flesh
5. Descending

## **BY FAITH**

### ***“The Reward of Faith- God Himself”***

*Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

#### **1. WHAT IS FAITH?**

Basically it is when the things of God, the spiritual realm, become real to you. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:17,18 “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened”. Being enlightened, awakening, or faith, is when your spiritual senses are touched by God so that the things of heaven are alive to you. Your spiritual eyes see His beauty everywhere, your ears are attentive to His voice, and your heart is inflamed with the love of God.

#### **2. HOW DOES FAITH OR THIS AWAKENING COME?**

It is the work of the Holy Spirit moving upon God’s written or spoken word. It is often unexpected; suddenly our blind eyes see and our deaf ears hear. When it happens you know it, you can never return to that other life again.

Martin Luther writes, “Faith transforms the mind and attitudes. It creates an entirely new person. Faith changes the heart and mind. Reason tends to concentrate on what is present—the here and now. Faith concerns itself with things that are intangible and, contrary to reason, regards them as actually being present. Most people concern themselves with what they can see, touch, and handle rather than listening to God’s Word.”

#### **3. HOW DO I PUT MYSELF IN A POSITION FOR MY FAITH TO AWAKEN?**

Jude vs 24 says, “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” Jude was talking about touching the unseen spiritual realm by praying in his heavenly language. He was describing what Hebrews talks about, by faith we understand or perceive as real the spiritual world. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Faith is the supernatural ability to perceive as real the unseen world of God.

#### 4. WHAT DOES FAITH FIND ITS LIFE AND DELIGHT IN?

*Hebrews 11:3, "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."*

Andrew Murray writes, "This visible world is to man his great temptation to forget God. Faith is the eye with which he can see God in all.." Faith brings us near to God and His goodness. We are living surrounded by things that perish yet they stand in the midst of the eternal. His handiwork is all around and creation instead of an hindrance, becomes a help in revealing the everlasting God. Andrew Murray continues, "so faith finds its life and its delight and its ever-increasing strength in meeting everywhere **"the God who delights to bear witness of Himself to them that seek after Him."**"

#### 5. HEBREWS 11 LIST MANY MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIVED BY FAITH, WHAT WAS THEIR COMMON REWARD?

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Rahab and all the others who were listed all saw Him who is invisible. They saw through the eyes faith the Unseen God. They all heard a voice, saw in the future and believed in the promises of good things to come. They all forsook lands, people, places and things and instead chose to walk by faith. As a result they all received an eternal reward. It was not something measured by natural, tangible wealth. **The reward was \_\_\_\_\_**. In Genesis 15:1, God told Abraham that "*He was his exceedingly great reward*". In Deuteronomy 10:9, He told the Levites that, "*He was their portion*". By faith, Moses forsook Egypt and he met the Great I AM. Sarah's reward was she found the One who is able to do the impossible. Rahab found the evidence of what she had hoped for as the scarlet rope hung out of her window. It is that same rope that we hold onto today, that has an anchor attached and fastened on the Rock. It is holding us together and is helping us in our weakness. Have faith in God. Have the faith of God - He is your eternal reward, (kb)

#### 6. WHO WAS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF A MAN WHO WALKED WITH GOD?

*Hebrews 11:5, "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God."*

Enoch walked with God. We don't know much more than that about Enoch; that pretty much says it all. That is what the faith chapter in Hebrews is about; for that matter that's what the whole book of Hebrews is about, walking with God. The author of Hebrews builds his whole case that culminates in chapter ten with the torn veil and open access into the holy of holies, ready entrance into the very presence of the Most High God.

Chapter eleven begins to describe faith. The whole point of the book was to bring us to the place of Enoch, Enoch walked with God and then he was not; God took him. Could it be possible that this is what the rapture is all about? Could there possibly be a generation moving in this Enoch kind of faith, faith to walk with God? Can you imagine a move of the Holy Spirit in this dark generation where thousands of Christians actually walk with God like Enoch? 'Impossible', someone said. 'Impractical', someone else said. But isn't that what Christianity is supposed to be in the eyes of man; impossible and impractical? I think another burst of Holy Ghost wind is about to change everything again. Get ready, the God of Enoch lives.

## **7. WHAT DOES FAITH BELIEVE?**

*Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"*

Andrew Murray writes, "Faith believes that God \_\_\_\_\_; that He can and will make Himself known; that He cares for everyone who truly longs for Him; that He has a divine reward for the seeker after Him. In seeking Him the way may at times be dark and long, and the progress slow; faith honors God with its confidence as the God of love and truth; He will reward and bless."

## **8. WHAT IF WE DON'T SEE THE REALIZATION OF ALL HIS PROMISES IN OUR LIFETIME?**

*Hebrews 11:13, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."*

All we experience here is really a shadow of the heavenly experience our heart really longs for. To know Christ is to know life. To taste this life starts our heart down the journey that brings us to the heavenly kingdom. Like the saints that have gone before us, we are just passing through, our true citizenship is in heaven.

Jonathan Edwards wrote, "In heaven alone is attainment of our highest good. God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper happiness, and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here: better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops; but God is the ocean.

**“I say, God is calling you to look again. Go beyond the veil into the new and living way that Christ opened up for us. Eternity is drawing us near!” Pastor Frank Bailey**

## **9. HOW SHALL WE LIVE THIS LIFE OF FAITH FROM NOW ON?**

*Hebrews 11:25-27, “Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”*

The Fire Bible writes, “Every believer faces the recurring choice that Moses faced; to be identified with Christ and God’s people, even though it may bring rejection and persecution, or to enjoy the momentary “pleasures of sin” and the feeling of freedom that my initially come from going our own way.

Pastor Parris writes, “Hebrews 11:26 says, “Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.” This word “**respect**” in Greek means “**aphoran**” which means “**to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on some one thing; to look at attentively; to look with steadfast mental gaze.**”The word also means “**to turn one’s mind to a certain thing.**” All these people in Hebrews 11 had seen “the invisible”, they turned their gaze from the horror and fixed their eyes on Jesus who became the author (aphor) and finisher of their faith. “Outer court worshippers know little about what belongs to the inner sanctuary, or surely they would press on until the place of nearness. All we experience here is really a shadow of the heavenly experience our heart really longs for. To know Christ is to know life. To taste this life starts our heart down the journey that brings us to the heavenly kingdom. Like the saints that have gone before us, we are just passing through.

**“We all should by now realize that we live in a time that the unspeakable can happen. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus with a steadfast gaze. He will bring us to the desired haven in due time all for His glory and His good. I don’t want to live in the outer courts where I will be tossed about with every emotion and circumstance. Most of us need to use our God given eyes to lay hold on His eyes and let Him move us into a place that we will never see this earth again. Even so come Lord Jesus!” Pastor Parris Bailey**

# ANSWER KEY

- 5. God Himself
- 9. Can be Found

# Week TWELVE

## RUN YOUR RACE

*“Author and Finisher”*

*Hebrews 12:1, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”*

### 1. WHAT ARE WE BEING CHEERED ON AND CHALLENGED TO SHAKE OFF EVERY DAY?

This is a very powerful picture painted for us in the book of Hebrews. The word cloud used in this passage, defined by Vincent “means a great mass of cloud covering the entire visible space of the heavens, and therefore without definite form, or a single large mass in which definite outlines are not emphasized or distinguished”. This is no ordinary cloud. This is the cloud of witnesses just described in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11. This is Abel’s sacrifice of faith, Enoch’s walk of faith into heaven, Noah’s work of faith, and Abraham’s life of faith. The author sees us struggling with the daily obstacles that hold us back, being cheered on by the lives of those that have gone before us. We are being challenged to shake off our daily hindrances and finish the race that we began by faith.

### 2. WHAT IS THE ALLUSION PAINTED HERE?

Albert Barnes writes, “There is allusion here, doubtless, to the ancient games. A great multitude of spectators usually occupied the circular seats in the amphitheater, from which they could easily behold the combatants.” This passage paints an incredible picture of our Christian life. Paul compares our life as a marathon race finishing in the Olympic Stadium with the faithful men of God watching and cheering us on. He sees their lives as forerunners for each of us. Their testimony encourages us.

I love to imagine the scene in heaven as the eternal race draws to a close. The witnesses know what is at stake and they also know the challenges we face. Like Jesus stood to cheer for Steven, He stands again with all His other witnesses as we approach the finish line. Their shouting from another world penetrates the atmosphere of this realm as this age draws to a close. What are they shouting? Finish the race, run with all your strength, the reward is greater than you can ever know. Shake off your fears, your doubts, your insecurities and your sins and run with strength into His arms of love.

### **3. WHAT RACE IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS TALKING ABOUT?**

The one \_\_\_\_\_ before us!

John Gill writes, this race is “set before” the saints; that is, by God; the way in which they are to run is marked out by him in his word; the troubles they shall meet with in it are appointed for them by him, in his counsels and purposes; the mark to direct them is set before them in the Gospel, even Jesus, the author and finisher of faith, whom they are to look unto; the length of their race is fixed for them, or how far, and how long they shall run; and the prize is determined for them, and will be given them, and which is held out for their encouragement, to have respect unto: and it becomes all the saints, and belongs to each, and everyone of them, to “run” this race...”

*1 Corinthians 9:24-27, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*

Can you hear the shouting? Finish the race, run with all your strength, the reward is greater than you can ever imagine!

### **4. WHAT IS THE LORD’S PART IN OUR RACE?**

Our Christian life is a race to the finish line. Christ is waiting for each of us with outstretched arms at the line, the saints who have gone before us are standing and shouting us on. It’s our turn to run. The race itself is supernatural. He has called us to the race. He has equipped us and trained us to win. He has marked out the course and put it in our hearts. He strengthens us as we go. He encourages us and picks us up when we stumble. It’s our job to just keep running, we just have to stay in the race.

### **5. WHAT 4 THINGS ARE REQUIRED OF US IN THIS RACE?**

We must ask ourselves the question, “Am I even in the race?” Paul refers to the race as our chosen purpose in this Christian life. The Lord has a track for each of us to run. It involves **surrender, commitment, diligence, and perseverance**. If you haven’t figured

it out yet, this race involves your part in ministry to others. The work of the ministry is for all Christians. The work of ministers is to equip Christians for this work. The second question is this; “am I disqualifying myself by my choices?” Paul told us to run this race to win. The reward is eternal and the race is final. So if you have stumbled, get back up. Get back in the race. There is not much time. How do I know? The roar from the stadium is almost deafening.

## **6. WHO DO YOU NEED TO SET YOUR EYES ON?**

*Hebrews 12:2, “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

John Gill writes, “Faith is an unswerving gaze that looks on \_\_\_\_\_ alone”. That’s it! Faith is the God given ability to see or perceive the things of God. Faith is the awakening of our spiritual senses. The effect of God’s grace on our soul is the ability to hear God’s voice, see His glory, and taste His love. This changes everything. Instead of trying to pump up our faith by quoting slogans or even scripture endlessly, we can rest. We can rest in our quiet pursuit of God Himself. When we touch Him (or He touches us), suddenly our faith is awakened. It’s not a struggle, it is a joyful receiving of God’s gift of grace found in Christ alone. This becomes our life, following after Him, living this new life of faith. He is not only the author, He is the finisher. He will bring our journey of faith to total completion.

## **7. WHAT DOES THE WORDS AUTHOR AND FINISHER MEAN?**

He is the beginning of all things. He is the initiator, or author of all things spiritual and good in our lives. He authors, sustains, and brings to completion His plans in our lives. His work of creation continues in us at all times. But He is also the Finisher, the Perfecter of my faith.

This is a beautiful word in the New Testament Greek, look at the description of this aspect of the ministry of the Lord from Zodhiates’ word book. Finisher= “Teleiôtēs; from téléios, what achieves its goal. A completer, perfecter, one who brings something through to the goal so as to win and receive the prize.” The Lord was showing me that “He had this”. He was more than able to finish what He started, after all, it was His Glory at stake, not mine. This “PERFECTER” is an interesting person. He is the one who trains us, equips us, carries us, and provides for us. He stays right on the job all the way to the finish line. When He started the work in each one of us, it was the finish He had in mind all along.

# ANSWER KEY

- 3. Set
- 6. Christ

## Week THIRTEEN

### COVENANT LOVE

*“Complete in Him”*

*Hebrews 13:20, “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant. Make you perfect (complete) in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”*

#### 1. WHAT WILL TRUE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD BRING US INTO RIGHT RELATION WITH?

Andrew Murray writes, “Yes, when God is the portion of the soul, it may well be content with what it has of earth. It is the consciousness of the favor and nearness of God that makes the soul rise above all that the world can offer. To lead the truly Christian life, the life of faith amid daily duties and daily care, we need the presence of God as our better and abiding possession. Our earthly and our heavenly life are more closely linked than we know. Too much of interest in or attachment to earthly things inevitably weakens our hold on God. True fellowship with God at once brings us into the right relation to earthly things. Let our faith study and feed on the promise: Himself hath said, I will in no wise leave thee, nor in any wise forsake thee. The faith that clings to its fulfillment will overcome the world.”

So where have you been focusing your attention to secure contentment in life? Is it financial security that you long for or a new title at work or a better house or a long vacation? Those things are all good but are just not what produces peace and contentment in our soul. Christ is more than enough and He is calling us near.

## 2. WHAT COVENANT PROMISE DOES HE MAKE TO US IN HEBREWS 13?

Hebrews 13:5, "Let your character *or* moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present circumstances and with what you have; for He God Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you *nor* give you up *nor* leave you without support. **I will not, I will not, I will not** in any degree leave you helpless *nor* forsake *nor* let you down or relax My hold on you! **Assuredly not!**

It is "\_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_! Cease to sustain and uphold thee." Wuest

The word in its totality means "to abandon, desert, leave in straits, leave helpless, leave destitute, leave in the lurch, let one down." There are three negatives before this word, making the promise one of triple assurance. It is, "I will not, I will not, I will not let thee down, leave thee in the lurch, leave thee destitute, leave thee in straits and helpless, abandon thee." All of which means that our God will come to our rescue when we find ourselves in difficult circumstances. Wuest

Sometimes the simplest promises are the most powerful. The Lord has promised He will always be with us. One of the last things Jesus said before His ascension was 'I will be with you even until the end of the age'. That is a pretty powerful promise. No matter what you face or what trouble comes your way, He will be with you. In the midst of financial catastrophe, He is there. Maybe you are facing sickness or even the threat of death, He is there. When you are facing failure even in your endeavors for the Lord, He is always there. He is constant, faithful, and powerful ever present and engaged on our behalf in all things.

## 3. WHAT IS THE SECOND COVENANT PROMISE HE MAKES IN THIS CHAPTER?

*Hebrews 13:20, "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant. Make you perfect (complete) in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

The Holy Spirit is on a continual pursuit of changing the believer. Perfecting us in every good work to do His will. The word perfect means to make you 'completely in joint'. For us that find ourselves "out of sorts" he will make us right. There has to be a complete change in the whole soul, cleansed by the power of God, redemption begins to do its mighty work in us on a daily basis. He gives us an inward purity to conform to His ways. I came across these words: Perfection, Establishment, Strengthening, Settling.

Spurgeon says it like this, "And do you imagine, any of you, that God will begin to sculpture out a perfect being and not complete it? Do you think that the hand of divine

wisdom will sketch the Christian and not fill up the details? Hath God taken us as unhewn stones out of the quarry, and hath he begun to work upon us, and show his divine art, his marvelous wisdom and grace and will he afterwards cast us away? Shall God fail? Shall he leave his works imperfect? Point, if you can, my hearers, to a world which God has castaway unfinished. Is there one speck in his creation where God hath begun to build but was not able to complete? Hath he made a single angel deficient? Is there one creature over which it cannot be said, "This is very good?" He makes us "fully fitted". We will not be lacking for the tasks that lay ahead of us. He will "fully complete, be qualified, adapted and suited for the performance of his will.

#### 4. WHO IS MAKING US COMPLETE?

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"Make You Complete" =Strong's- καταρτίζω – kat-ar-tid'-zo – to complete thoroughly, that is, repair (literally or figuratively) or adjust: – fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect, prepare, restore

Zodhiates- The fundamental meaning is to put a thing in its appropriate position. This word, katartidzo, describes the heavenly ministry of our Heavenly High Priest. Today, Jesus is representing His sons and daughters before the Father in heaven. Paul says He lives forever to make intercession for us. This intercession is what makes me clean in the Father's eyes, His blood makes me acceptable to the Father and also cleanses my conscience from the stains and shame of sin.

- A. As the word katartidzo describes, He is adjusting and repairing my life through forgiveness and acceptance; what a powerful God.
- B. Secondly, this heavenly ministry of Jesus is the ministry of baptism. As John the Baptist boldly declared, "there is One coming after me mightier than I, I baptize with water for the forgiveness of sins, He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit". This is the present day ministry of Jesus. This heavenly Shepherd is the baptizer, as we look to our Heavenly Shepherd, our sins are washed away, and we are filled again and again with the Holy Spirit.
- C. In Hebrews 7:25 Paul declared that this Heavenly Shepherd is able to save us to the uttermost. That means totally and eternally. Today, Jesus is not dormant, waiting to return to the earth, He is constantly ministering to all that call upon His name. He is adjusting, repairing, healing, restoring, and empowering His flock. He is making you complete. After all, He can save to the uttermost.

**ANSWER**

# KEY

2. I Will Not! I Will Not!, I Will Not!
4. The Heavenly Shepherd