

# THE NEW AND LIVING FAITH

## HEBREWS 10:19–21

### *Introduction*

Think about this for a moment. Who is God to most people?

- => To some people, God is the Creator of the world. However, He is far off in outer space someplace, not too interested in them nor in their day to day affairs. They just go about living and doing pretty much the way they want. If they get in a troublesome spot and need help, they can call upon God and He might or might not help. God is just some big being off in some other world who is to be believed, but it is not necessary to get too concerned over Him since He is so far away.
- => To other people God is Someone to be feared. They think He is the Judge who hovers over them watching their every move and punishing them for every wrong. They fear lest God bring some kind of trouble upon them, some disease, trouble, heartache, loneliness, emptiness and sorrow.
- => To other people, God may exist or He may not exist. If there is a God, He is far, far away — so far removed that we cannot know Him nor ever hope to know Him. There just is not enough evidence that God exists, not in the physical world. And even if God does exist, we certainly cannot know Him in any personal sense.

This is not the God being presented here: this is not the God that sent our Lord Jesus Christ to earth.

- => God is not a God who is far off and unconcerned with us.
- => God is not a God to be feared and dreaded.
- => God is not a God who cannot be known.

God can be known and approached: we can fellowship and commune with Him, walk and talk with Him as we move throughout the day. How? By the new and living faith — by the living faith wrought by Jesus Christ. Man no longer has to walk through life...

- with written words alone.
- with faith in written promises alone.
- with faith in a *future hope only*.

Man can now have a living faith, a faith that actually lives and moves and has its being within his heart. He can experience a faith that is quickened and made alive to his heart and life, a faith that is so imprinted upon his heart and life that he knows with absolute assurance that the promises of God are sure — a faith that is actually experienced day by day.

This is the discussion of this passage: *the new and living faith* established by God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I. It is confidence to enter the holiest, the very presence of God (vv. 19-20).
  - II. It is having a greater High Priest over the house of God, that is, heaven (v. 21).
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## I. *Hebrews 10:19–20 The New and Living Faith*

What is the new and living faith? First, it is having confidence to enter the presence of God. The word “confidence” (*parresian*) means to enter God’s presence freely and openly, with boldness and assurance. Just imagine...

- being able to enter the presence of God freely and openly.
- knowing God personally and intimately.
- fellowshiping and communing with God.
- having God guide and direct, look after and care for, provide and protect, strengthen and deliver us with joy, rejoicing, assurance, confidence and victory over all the trials and temptations in life.

Imagine having God take care of one’s life like that. This is what the new and living faith is: it is *confidence* to enter God’s presence, to know God intimately and personally, experiencing His fellowship, presence and power all the time. It is living and moving and having our being in God.

How is this possible? How can a person know God so personally and intimately? By the blood of Jesus Christ. The death of Jesus Christ opened up a new and living way for us to approach God. It opened up a way that brings us right into the holiest place of all, into the very presence of God.

Note the reference to the *most Holy Place* (v. 19) and to the veil or curtain (v. 20). This refers to the Most Holy Place of the Jewish tabernacle where the presence of God dwelt and to the veil or curtain which separated God’s presence from man. The Most Holy Place stressed the holiness and majesty of God — how unsearchable and separate God is from man and his world of imperfection and sin. The veil symbolized that man was cut off from God: man’s sin and imperfection made him unacceptable to God. This, of course, meant a significant fact: as long as the veil or curtain was there, man could not approach God. The only way man could ever approach God would be if God tore the veil and opened up the way into His presence.

This is the glorious message of this passage. God has torn in two the veil through the flesh of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 20). The veil symbolized the body of the Lord Jesus. When the body of the Lord Jesus was torn, the veil of the tabernacle was torn in two and the way was opened up into the presence of God forever. What does this mean? It means this: when the body of Christ was torn upon the cross, man was no longer separated from God by sin and imperfection. The torn body of Christ means...

- that Christ bore the sins and guilt and judgment of men for them.
- that Christ frees man from sin and guilt and judgment by His torn body.
- that Christ has opened up the way for man to enter God’s presence by His rent body.

Now, back to the original question: How can a person know God personally and intimately? How can a person enter the presence of God freely and openly? By the blood of Jesus, by the rent body of our Lord. A veil no longer separates man from God. There is only one thing that stands between God and men, that is Jesus Christ, the rent body of the living Lord. The way into God's presence is now opened through Christ. But note: it is opened only through Christ, only through His rent body. He is the *new and living way* to God. He is the object of the *new and living faith* that is to be placed in God.

**John 10:9** *"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."*

**John 14:6** *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

**Rom 5:1-2** *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*

**Eph 2:18** *For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

**Eph 3:12** *In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*

**Heb 10:19, 22** *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

## **II. Hebrews 10:21 Jesus Christ, The High Priest**

What is the new and living faith? Second, it is having a great High Priest of God over the house of God. What is the house of God?

=> It is heaven, where the very presence of God is and where the home of believers is.

=> It is the great house God is building, the church of the living God.

=> It is the great house of faith, the house which includes all those who believe.

The point is this: our High Priest is not a High Priest over an earthly temple or worship sanctuary that ages, deteriorates and passes away. Our High Priest is over the very presence of God. He is the High Priest who can usher us into the very presence of God Himself and into the eternal dwelling place of God.

=> Jesus Christ is the Perfect Priest who has made the perfect sacrifice for sins — once-for-all.

Therefore, He is able to lead us into the presence of God and present us as perfect and acceptable before God. He is able to lead us to know God, to fellowship and commune

with God and to do it on a continued basis. As the great Priest over God's house He is able to feel and sympathize with our weaknesses and to help us in times of need.

This is what is meant by the new and living way, the new and living faith. Faith in Christ opens up the presence of God. When a person comes to God through Jesus Christ, he has access to God — access to God's love and care, protection and provision, power and presence. God becomes actively involved in the person's life — fellowshiping and communing and looking after the person day by day.

**Thought 1.** Remember: not all believers take advantage of the open door into God's presence and care. Too many neglect their fellowship and communion with Him. Jesus Christ has provided the most wonderful thing in the world for us — access into the very presence of God Himself. We must learn to share and fellowship with Him in an unbroken communion.

**Heb 2:17** *For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

**Heb 4:14-15** *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.*

**Heb 5:5** *So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."*

**Heb 6:19-20** *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever; in the order of Melchizedek.*

**Heb 7:25-27** *Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.*

**Heb 8:1-2** *The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.*

**Heb 9:11-14** *When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood,*

*having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

**Heb 10:19-21** *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ■*