

**Entering His Presence:****The Importance of Our Heart Attitude Toward a Holy God:**

Strange Fire- Leviticus 10:1-3

"Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on the fire and offered <sup>to</sup> strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent."

Self-Flattery Isaiah 29:13,15,16

Then the Lord said, "Because this people approaches *Me* with their words And honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of *the* commandment of men that is taught... Woe to those who deeply hide their <sup>in</sup> plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are *done* in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?" You turn *things* around! Shall the potter be considered <sup>to</sup> as equal with the clay, That what is made would say to its maker, "He did not make me"; Or what is formed say to him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?"

**God's Care in Preparing Us to Enter His Presence:**

Exodus 19:1-13,16-22: Although the covenant was established solely by God's grace, the covenant's central blessing of communion with God could become a reality only as the people were holy in life and devoted to him; and this could be so only as they understood God's requirements and were obedient to them. The people acknowledged this and solemnly pledged themselves to carry out God's commands. Thus, although the covenant originated in divine grace and was not conditional upon human works, the people were still required to keep their part of the covenant if they were to enjoy its blessings.

Three warnings to preserve life in the presence of a holy God: The people were then given a brief view of the awesome power of the one to whom they had submitted themselves. He was not to be treated lightly.

Vs 10-13- consecrate themselves; wash their clothes; set boundaries

Vs 21-22- the danger of seeing God's holiness. Isaiah 6:5

Vs 24-25- only those invited by God can come and survive.

**The Supremacy of Christ our High Priest**

Hebrews 10:19-25

"Therefore, brothers *and sisters*, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, *through* His flesh, and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, let's approach *God* with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Jude 24-25

"Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen."

## His Pattern for Our Prayer

"Pray, then, in this way:

1. 'Our Father, who is in heaven,- our humble and reverent acknowledgement of His Authority and Ownership
2. Hallowed be Your name.- our humble, reverent acknowledgement of His holiness and that I am no match.
3. Your kingdom come.- our humble acknowledgement of His Lordship and Authority and our submission to Him.
4. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.- our humble acknowledgement of His Providence and the impact of His sanctification on our arrogance.
5. Give us this day our daily bread.- our humble acknowledgement of our dependency on His sufficiency.
6. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.- our humble acknowledgement of our need for His justice and righteousness and the power to live out its impact on us toward others.
7. And do not lead us into temptation- our humble acknowledgement of our vulnerable sin nature and need for His saving grace.
8. ,but deliver us from evil.'- our humble acknowledgement of His power to deliver us from evil."

## Guided Prayer:

Selected passages from Psalm:

1. 149:4; 29:4; 145:8; 145:17; 33:4; 95:4
2. 37:4; 69:30; 9:1; 7:17; 124:8; 145:3; 96:6; 118:29; 100:2; 150:6;
3. 9:10; 33:22; 95:7; 40:1; 42:8; 118:6; 37:23; 103:17
4. 32:8; 145:18; 91:1;
5. 18:1145:16; 129:8;
6. 55:22; 18:30; 147:3;
7. 50:15; 145:14; 139:5; 121:1-2; 16:8; 91:11; 147:6; 121:7;
8. 138:8; 52:8; 4:8; 23:6; 66:9; 29:11; 46:1

Close: See "A Gospel Primer" # 31

ray for Leaders around the world:

1. "Dear Lord God, convert and restrain such people. Convert those who shall be converted, that they with us and we with them may bless and praise your name, both in holding fast to pure doctrine and living respectable, holy lives.
2. But restrain those who are unwilling to be converted from abusing, dishonoring, and profaning your holy name, and from misleading our poor people. Amen."
3. Convert those who will be children and members of your kingdom that they with us and we with them may serve you in true faith and genuine love and that we may move from the present kingdom to your everlasting kingdom.
4. Restrain those, however, who refuse to stop destroying your kingdom with their might and power, that dethroned and humbled, they are forced to stop. Amen."
5. Convert those who shall know your gracious will, that together with us they may obey you and, beyond that, gladly and patiently bear every evil, cross, and adversity, which we recognize as coming from your perfect and gracious good will.
6. Restrain those, however, who will not refrain from doing harm in their anger, their raving, their hate, and their ill will. Bring to nothing their counsel, evil plots, and underhanded practices, to their own shame.
7. Bestow upon all classes, both city folk and country folk, piety and a mutual love and sincerity. Bless our land with good harvest and good weather. Protect house and home, wife and children. Let me lead them well, bringing them up in the way of the Lord. Ward off and restrain Satan and all evil angels who would harm or distract us in this life. Amen."
8. "Furthermore, do not consider how good or bad we have been, but look upon us with your infinite compassion, bestowed upon us by Christ, your beloved Son. Forgive also all our enemies and all those who have harmed us or done us an injustice, even as we forgive them from the heart. For they do themselves irreparable harm when they vent their anger against us. We gain nothing by their ruin. Rather, we would rather see them blessed with us. Amen."
9. "Father, keep us brave and alert, fervent and eager in the use of your Word and service, lest we become complacent, lazy, or sluggish, as if we had need of nothing more, so that the fierce devil suddenly is able to catch us by surprise, deprive us of your precious Word, or create dissension and sects among us, or otherwise lead us into sin and shame both spiritually and physically. Rather, grant us wisdom and power through your Spirit, that as good soldiers we can conquer after resisting him. Amen."
10. "Father, this life of ours is so wretched, so full of sorrow and misfortune, so full of danger and insecurity, so full of evil and faithlessness—as St. Paul says, 'The days are evil' (Ephesians 5:15)—that we might justifiably be tired of life and even desirous of death. But you, dear Father, know our weakness. Therefore, help us to survive such great evil and malice. And when our time comes, let it be a blessed hour and a joyful departure out of this place of sorrows, that we may neither fear death nor give way to despair, but in unwavering faith commit our souls into your hands. Amen." Finally, mark this: say the Amen in every case emphatically, without doubting that God in his grace is certainly giving ear to and saying yes to your prayer. Never think of yourself as standing or kneeling alone, but as all of Christendom, or all devout Christians, joining with you in a united prayer, which God cannot disregard. And do not close this prayer without having said or thought: "Indeed, God heard this prayer; of this I am sure. For that is what Amen means."

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