

Our Great High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-16

“This passage is a call to live with hope, encouragement, courage, and confidence. Why? Not only because you have a High Priest who has passed through the heavens and now sits at the right hand of the Father on high, but also because he is sympathetic to your weaknesses. But there is more. He is sympathetic to your weaknesses because he hears and answers you from the vantage point of an experiential basis of knowledge of exactly what you are going through. He came to earth and, from that time he was an infant until he ascended after his resurrection, he faced the full range of the sufferings and temptations that we face. He knows what it is like to be homeless, hungry, and rejected. He is acquainted with disease and physical pain. He knows the power of accusations and injustice. He faced the siren voice of temptation. He knows what it is like to be forsaken by loved ones. He understands suffering and death. He stared evil in the face. He knows us and has a firsthand understanding of what we deal with day in and day out. Paul Tripp

- I. It is uncomfortable for many of us to think that we will stand before Jesus to give an account for how well we lived our lives as redeemed saints. God wants us to be aware of that so that we can work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12-13). He gives us many helps to do so. We’ve been given the Holy Spirit, whose power gives us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) and we’ve been given His truth, the Word, to judge the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts (Heb. 12). Both work within us in special ways that are unique to the uniqueness of our individuality. We’ve also been given Jesus himself, who fully understands the struggles and hardships we deal with living in a fallen world, with fallen natures, susceptible to a plethora of temptations. All three resources must be fully embraced if we expect to stand firm in the faith.

Heb. 4:13

Heb. 4:14

1 Peter 2:5

Rev. 3:1-2

Isa. 58:1-3

Rom. 8:30-32

Rev. 3:4

Rev. 7:9

2 Cor. 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

- II. The terminal condition we deal with daily is the weaknesses that result from living with a fallen nature. They will be with us till the day we die. Those weaknesses can either defeat us or we can defeat them, depending on where we turn to deal with the harm, they are causing us. Jesus willingly emptied himself of his deity and subjected himself in every way to what we deal with so that he could better sympathize with our temptations and struggles as our one and only High Priest. The reason he did that, was so that we could turn to him as a source of comfort, understanding and help as he intercedes for us before the Father.

Heb. 4:15

ἀσθένεια *asthénéia*, *as-then'-i-ah*; from G772; feebleness (of mind or body); by implication, malady; morally, frailty:—disease, infirmity, sickness, weakness. Strong's

1 Cor. 10:13 *13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

- III. The Lord gives us two very important things when we turn to him for help that are essential to our mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. He gives us mercy, i.e., kindness and compassion, and he gives us grace, i.e., his favor, to quiet our souls, remove our guilt, give us wisdom, and give us the help we need to deal with the problems we are facing. He wants us to approach his throne of grace with confidence believing that he hears us and will answer our prayers according to his will.

Heb. 4:16

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