

Hebrews 4 v14 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. v15 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. v16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. 5 v1 Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. v2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. v3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. v4 No one takes this honour upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. v5 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." v6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." v7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. v8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered v9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him v10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-10

Who are you trusting to make it possible for you to enter God's presence?

Everybody wants to meet someone famous or important. You just need to look at the popularity of celebrity show. Even if you detest celebrity shows, I am sure there is somebody very important you would like to meet. NOW, I am sure, the majority of the world would like to meet God at some time.

The problem for most of us is, we can hardly get an appointment to see our city mayor, let alone a Minister in our Government, and most definitely, we would never get in to see the President of the Country.

SO, HOW DO YOU GET TO SEE GOD?

The vast majority of World Religions believe and teach that you can get to see God through you own efforts. I know, many of us who were trying to get to God through you own efforts, realised that we were never good enough to deserve being in the Presence of a HOLY GOD.

The passage today deals with this vital question

Ten Reasons why I only need JESUS to ENCOUNTER GOD

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

1. **JESUS HAS DESTROYED THE BARRIER
SEPARATING US FROM GOD.**

*4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest **who has gone through the heavens**,*

Each year the High Priest in Israel, entered the Holy-of-Holies to pour blood on the altar to ask God for the forgiveness on the Nation's sins. They would tie a rope around his ankle in case God struck him dead in the Holy Place. The Holy-of-Holies was separated from the rest of the Temple by a curtain. We read what happened at the death of Jesus in **Matthew 27:50-51** *And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. v51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.*

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

2. **JESUS KNOWS THE WAY HOME.**

*4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through **the heavens**,*

The normal High Priest entered into a place which represented the Presence of God. In the middle of the Ark of the Covenant, between two carved angels was a place to sit, called the MERCY SEAT. **JESUS CAME FROM THE ACTUAL PRESENCE OF GOD.**

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

3. **JESUS IS A FAMILY MEMBER.**

*4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus **the Son of God**,*

When you see my granddaughter, you see my daughter. Just like when you see my son, you see me. Often people would rather speak to one of my family members, rather than speaking to me directly. They know, that if they speak to Patricia, I am going to get the message.

Some, like Catholics may say, that if we want to talk to Jesus, we should talk through Mary. The great difference in this. Mary is no more a relative of Jesus, than any of us who believe. For Mary, blessed as she was, still carried the sin of Adam in her body, like all of us in need of redemption. Jesus made it very clear to Mary & Joseph, when he was a teenager, that God was his parent, and not them.

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

4. **JESUS KNOWS HOW DIFFICULT IT IS.**

*4:15 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.***

The best person to talk to when you want a solution to a problem, is someone who has solved the problem before. Book learning is great and necessary, BUT EXPERIENCE COUNTS MORE IN THE END.

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

5. JESUS IS FULLY QUALIFIED TO ENTER.

*4:15 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.***

In all the descriptions of encounters with God recorded in the Bible, the one thing they all have in common is, A SENCE OF HOLINESS AND PURITY.

Adam, Noah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah, Thomas, Apostle John.

JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT SIN

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

6. JESUS HAS PERMANANTLY OPENED THE WAY.

4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The phrase "Let us then approach" should be translated "Let us then approach constantly". We can go at any time, as often as we want. This is vital, because in Jewish practice, this is only done once a year on the Day of Atonement.

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

7. JESUS WAS CHOSEN BY GOD TO OPEN THE DOOR.

5:1 Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. v2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. v3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. v4 No one takes this honour upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. v5 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."

The most famous verse in the Bible teachers that God is the author of our salvation. *John 3:16 "For God loved the world in this way, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

8. JESUS IS AN ETERNAL KING AND PRIEST.

5:6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

The order of Melchizedek is different of the Levitical Priests. We will look at this later in the sermon series, suffice to say that the clue lies in the name, which is made up of two Hebrew words, Melech=King, and Zedek=Righteous.

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

9. JESUS DISPLAYED THAT HE KNEW GOD WHILE ON EARTH.

5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

While Jesus was on earth, he began to introduce us to God. *John 17:25-26*
"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. v26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD BECAUSE:

10. JESUS IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION.

5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered v9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him v10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

If you want what is purest, YOU GO TO THE SOURCE.

I know who I am trusting to take me into the PRESENCE OF GOD.

DO YOU?