

Access to the Father

June 9, 2024

What gives access to God Almighty? How was that made available?

In the Old Testament times, Access to God came by way of the high priest when he went into the Holiest of Holies in the Temple, once per year! This process was established by Moses and lasted many centuries until the ultimate sacrifice was made by Jesus Christ. He had to come and fulfill the law, and make it so that we all could have access to God our Father.

Ephesians 2:18: For through him [Christ Jesus] we both [Israel and Gentiles] have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Through Christ Jesus, we who were formerly either of Israel or of the Gentile nations have access to God, our Father, by the one spirit born within each of us. Under the law, the high priest had access to God in the holiest place only one day a year. Today, all born-again children of God have the right of access to Him at all times.

1John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

Really? There's no special code to enter? There's no special priest that we have to have? No, God hears us directly now. No more high priest to wait on or for. It's speaking directly to the Father.

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

In other words, we know what we've asked Him for, and we know He hears us. What a privilege as children of God! Then we can know for certain that God, our Father, hears our prayers.

Ephesians 3:12 In whom [Christ] we have boldness and access [to God] with confidence by the faith [believing] of him.

In other words, In Christ Jesus, we have boldness. This word for boldness is very interesting in this context. Here, boldness means, "*freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech... openly, frankly, without concealment, without ambiguity.*" We have this openness to the Father now. It is not just an open door, but it is without unreservedness in speech. We can be perfectly frank with God. No beating around the bush. Plain simple speech.

Furthermore, it states that we have "... **access [to the Father] with confidence through the [right way of] believing in him [Christ].**" What a great privilege we have to go directly to the Father. We don't have to wait for the once-a-year opportunity for the high priest to go on our behalf and make our petitions. Oh no, we do it ourselves without reservations or concealment, at any time!

Matthew 6:5: And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may

be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. **6** But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. **7** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. **8** Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

He is teaching them to pray directly to the Father here. This was unheard of before in Judaism. Jesus taught his disciples to pray to the Father even as he did on many occasions. Here is a prayer from Jesus to His Father.

John 17:1: These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: **2** As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. **3** And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. **4** I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. **5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. **6** I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. **7** Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. **8** For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. **9** I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. **10** And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. **11** And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*. **12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. **13** And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. **14** I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **15** I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. **18** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. **20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.

Jesus Christ paid the price for all mankind to have access to God. God desired to have fellowship with His people since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, when Adam lost the spirit. Through the thousands of years until Christ, the access to God was only to those whom God chose because of their believing.

If we look back through time, through the history of man we see that God gave **some** access to certain individuals at times through His grace. Once the law of Moses came, it was only the high priest that could petition God for the needs and desires of the people. And then, it was only to the children of Israel that the promises were made. Other than that, access to God had to come by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Jesus taught his disciples about the time to come when access would once again be restored.

John 16:22: And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. **23** And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you. **24** Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. **25** These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. **26** At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: **27** For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. **28** I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

After God raised Jesus from the dead and he ascended to the right hand of God, this promise became a reality. Whatever we ask the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, God will give it to us. Between God and His Son Jesus Christ, we are the beneficiaries of some great promises.

God gave Jesus Christ a name above every name so that by his name, every knee should bow **Philip 2:10** “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth.” Bending “a” knee is a sign of respect and honor. Bending both knees indicates worship. and every tongue is to confess Jesus as lord. This is what the first part of Romans 10:9 is all about...

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus...”

This is to make him lord in our life, we bow the knee because of who he is and what he did. We make him lord in our life... that is the first part of this verse, and He gives us access. The second part is very simple too...

Verse 9b “...and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Up until the moment that we confess Jesus as lord, we are lord in our life. We decide between this and that, we determine what we should do every moment of every day. However, once we make Jesus lord, we should continue to follow what he has done that God the Father sent him to do. His name commands respect, honor and authority. We have the right to use that name. We have the authority to ask anything in the name of Jesus Christ according to God’s will, knowing that God, our Father, hears and answers our prayers.

Matthew 21:22: And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Ephesians 5:20: Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are to pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ. Christ gave us access, so it is only fitting that we acknowledge that great truth when we pray. "In the Name our Lord Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

What a comfort! What a joy! To read this and really think about it is truly amazing! That our loving, gracious, heavenly Father would go to such lengths to allow us the wonderful privilege of this kind of access to Him. We live in a day and time unlike any other in the history of the world.

Instead of looking at the problems that may surround us at times and rather than looking to our own mental or physical abilities or to some worldly source, we should keep our eyes focused on our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access to the Father by the spirit born within us. We can pray to Him with the understanding and with the spirit. We can confidently ask the Father in the name of Jesus Christ, knowing that He hears and answers our prayers and that He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We can now come boldly with access unto Almighty God's throne of grace. It is by far better than anything we could have ever hoped for or prayed for, but we can now! Thank God for His unspeakable gift! (**II Cor 9:15**)