

Keys To Successful Living

Part four-dated 26/4/15

Reading: Hebrews 4:16

As we make the right confession, we find that we grow in confidence. This is exactly how the Father wants us to come to Him. He will respond to the words of our right confessions, pouring out His blessings and provisions. The first three keys we have covered so far are:

1. Let us fear 2. Let us be diligent 3. Let us hold fast our confession

Now we are moving on to the fourth key, which is also found in Hebrew chapter 4 V16 and reads “Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need”.

The fourth key is directly related to the first three and there is significance in the sequence. In order to be able to draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, we need to make sure we have taken the first three steps.

1. ***Let us fear:*** We should come with an attitude of reverence and awareness of our need of God’s Grace.
2. ***Let us be diligent:*** This is our response to God’s Grace. We are not slack, nor lazy nor indifferent
3. ***Let us hold fast our confession:*** We must have the right confession. We have to say with our mouths the right statements about Jesus and what He has done for us, if we are going to be able to use that fourth key of approaching the throne of grace with confidence.

MERCY & GRACE

In regards to our approaching the throne of Grace, we are told to come for two benefits: Mercy and Grace. It is important to note that if God in His Word invites us to come, and if we meet the conditions that we have already talked about, we can come. And if God says that mercy and grace are waiting for us, then I believe we can count on mercy and grace. We need never be disappointed. God will never give us an invitation that He would not stand behind.

Many of the promises and invitations in the Bible are conditional. God says “if you do this, I will do that”. In this instance, I understand God is saying to us, “if you approach My throne, having met the conditions, and if you acknowledge your need of My mercy and My grace, then you can count on it. I will make My mercy and My grace available to you. We do not need to be in any doubt about the truth of this promise from God.

That is the very reason why I believe Scripture says “Let us draw near with ***confidence*** to the throne of grace.”

What is confidence? Confidence is basically a state of self- assurance concerning one’s status of abilities. This confidence can be grounded in human achievements or a purely human reputation. Scripture insists that true Christian Confidence can only be grounded in God himself. Believers can have confidence in God’s unchanging and faithful nature, by which He remains faithful to those who put their trust in Him. They may also have confidence on account of His covenant, which establishes a firm and reliable foundation

for faith. Further grounds for confidence include the surety of God's promises, which are confirmed **in & through** Jesus Christ. Confidence in God can be enhanced by meditation on His past works such as His deliverance of Israel from captivity in Egypt. The NT provides added grounds for Christian confidence in the life and death of Jesus Christ and especially in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who encourages believers to remain steadfast in their faith.

If we come **as** God's children, we do not need to come as beggars. We are invited. God has no 2nd class children. He never holds us at a distance **If** we have **met** the conditions for approach. So, it is important that we come with confidence. This is faith in action-faith that will not be denied. It is faith that takes God at His word and believes God to be as good as His word. In other words, we demonstrate faith in God's faithfulness. We approach the throne- with confidence.

MERCY FIRST.

We are told to approach God's throne of grace to receive mercy and grace. I believe the order here is significant. **What is mercy?**

Mercy is quality of compassion, which is seen especially in God's gracious forgiveness of sins. The mercy of God is expressed in His covenant relationship with His people and is particularly focused on His fatherly nature. God is often portrayed as the loving & caring father, who is committed to the well-being of His people. In particular, He shows mercy to those who are in need or distress of any kind. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus compares God to a merciful father, who is concerned to answer the prayers of His children and do what is best for them. The mercy of God is especially associated with the doctrine of redemption, in which the death of Jesus Christ provides the means of redemption by which, the just penalty due for sin is averted through the mercy of God.

Essentially, mercy relates to people who have done wrong—those who cannot claim their rights because they are unworthy or too weak to do so. There is an attitude in the world today that makes people strive to claim their rights. Some says, "this is due to me" and "that is due to me" or why didn't I get that?" I ought to have this or that. With this prevailing attitude, it is often hard for people to see that they need mercy. It is so important for each of us to see that. We cannot just trust in our "rights"—they are not sufficient, we need God's mercy. One of the main reasons why people do not receive mercy is because they do not see their need of it.

GRACE NEXT.

The second benefit we come to the Lord for is grace. **What is grace?**

Grace is the unmerited favor of God, made known through Jesus Christ and expressed supremely in the redemption and full forgiveness of sinners through faith in Jesus Christ. The graciousness of God is evident in the OT, especially in the book of Deuteronomy. This work affirms that God's covenant election of Israel as His people was an act of grace, rather than as a consequence of the numerical strength of Israel. However, the revelation of the graciousness of God is especially associated with the NT and the coming of Jesus Christ. The calling of believers, as of Israel, is an act of grace. Apostle Paul emphasizes that salvation is a work of grace, in which believers are justified and reconciled to God on account of the atoning death of Jesus Christ, received through faith. Justification is not the result of works of the law, nor of any human achievement-but is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ. The Grace of God compensates for human weakness.

So, Grace is what God will freely do for us beyond what we deserve. One essential characteristic of grace is that it cannot be deserved. Also, the grace of God is supernatural. It goes beyond all the limits of our natural ability. Hebrew 4:16 says that we are come “in time of need.” That is so important. Are you in a situation of need? Is your situation desperate (completely without hope)? Do not let the devil fool you into thinking that your circumstances are too hopeless/critical/drastring/serious/grave even extreme and nothing can be done about it.

Let me recommend that you come to God’s throne with confidence to receive these two benefits.

First of all, come for mercy. Never ask for your rights, because if you got what you rightfully deserve—you would be shocked. What you & I really deserve, we do not want.

Secondly, come for grace. Do not limit God regarding what He can do on your behalf.

Finally, remember that you are coming to a throne. On that throne is a King. In addition, the King you are approaching is the King of the universe. All authority and power—in heaven and on earth—is in His hands. He can answer any need we have. So let’s take step number 4. Let us draw near to the throne of grace.

Four Secrets of Continued Grace

1. Live and walk in the Spirit ([Galatians 5:5](#); [Galatians 5:16-26](#); [Romans 8:1-13](#); and [Col. 3:5-10](#)).
2. Be patient in hope ([Galatians 5:5](#); [Romans 8:24](#); [Hebrews 3:6,12-14](#); [Hebrews 6:19](#)).
3. Continue in Christ ([Galatians 5:6](#); [John 15:1-8](#); [Col. 2:6-7](#); [Hebrews 3:14](#)).
4. Continue in faith ([Galatians 5:6](#); [Col. 1:23](#)).

May God bless us all in the hearing of His Word.....Amen.