



Better Promises: Hebrews 10v19-31

Being in the Lord's relational presence in the Hebrew Scriptures is being "before the Lord", having "face"-time with him. ***How do you feel about meeting and encounter with God?*** God is completely faithful and has promised us Better Hope in his presence (v23) if we hold onto Christ. There is a:

1) Guranteed Day (v26-31)

The day that is near to each one of us in v25 is the Day of Christ, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed in all his glory as both Judge and Saviour (King and Priest). Remember chapter 9v27-28. The writer warns us many times in his letter to reckon with the reality of eternal judgement and so to hold onto Christ firmly and trust his promises (remember, for example, Ch 6).

The Lord wants us to move out of spiritual infancy and into a place of devoted, assured, committed worship of the living God. If that's not where we are at the moment, there is the danger of dabbling with 'Christianity-Lite' and falling away. Rejection of Jesus' personal presence, love and grace insults the Holy Spirit (v29), and may leave only a fearful expectation of judgment (v27) and of falling into the wrathful hands of God on that Day (v30-31). It is possible to know all the right words about God (v26), but fail to love and worship him in your heart. To treat the precious, sanctifying death of the Son of God as a common thing is a dreadful outrage to the Spirit of grace (v28-29). It is, terrifyingly, possible for a person to reach the point where no sacrifice for their sin is left (v26), so that they are permanently cut off from the loving presence of God. The opposite of this trajectory is treasuring Jesus and delighting the Spirit of grace in assured worship (v19-25).

2) Guranteed Welcome (v19-25)

God wants us to have and experience the 'whole chebang', 'the whole 9 yards' of genuine new covenant faith and worship (v19-22). **Jesus has risen and gone into the true holy of holies (e.g., 9v24) and has held us by the hand and taken us there with him, right into the personal presence of God, never to leave (v19-20).** This is real, ongoing, personal knowledge of and encounter with God – facetime forever. Heaven met earth locally in the tabernacle and temple as they were filled with God's glory. Under the old covenant, there was provision for worship with God dwelling there in the midst of his people. Since Pentecost, God has poured out his Spirit into his new covenant people, making his dwelling in his new temple – You are the temple (or "house", v21) of the living God! **This is such a wonderful truth. God is personally present with you by his Spirit, and so heaven meets earth, wherever you are. Wherever you are, God wants there to be love between you and him and worship. You can have complete confidence about being in the Lord's presence (v19, v22) because of his death for you (v20). Do you long to draw nearer and come closer to his heart in worship?** The way is open.

