

## CAYA Series – “Understanding the Purpose and Power of Prayer”

### **CHAPTER 4 - “HOW TO ENTER GOD’S PRESENCE”**

We must learn to enter God’s presence with the right spirit, approach, and preparation so we can commune with Him and offer prayers as God’s priests.

#### **REVERENCE FOR GOD**

We need to be spiritually sensitive to the fact that God is holy, mighty, and worthy to be revered.

One of the favorite theological ideas in many churches today is that grace cancels the law. Yet because we misunderstand the nature of grace, we are casual about our obedience. We treat the precious blood of Jesus, which He gave His life to deliver to us, as if it’s some temporary covering for our messes so we can sin all over again.

God is saying to the church, “Don’t obey Me because of the things you want from Me. Obey Me because you love Me.” **(John 14:15)**

God doesn’t want us to use Him merely as safety insurance from hell. **God wants a relationship, to be a Father and commune with us!**

Communion means intimacy with our heavenly Father through which we express our love for Him, find out His will and then do it.

#### **HOLINESS AND INTEGRITY**

**When we don’t have a healthy fear of God or respect for His commandments, we are unable to truly enter His presence.**

When we talk about seeking God, we must talk about the word holiness. Holiness is critical to prayer because “without holiness no one will see the Lord” **(Hebrews 12:14)**.

The word holy means to “sanctify, or set apart,” or to “to be set.” When you are pure in heart, our mind is set on God and His ways.

Holiness has to do with fixing yourself on God and not being influenced by people who are not set on Him and who do not believe His Word. Holiness is

the key both to being persistent in prayer and to receive answers to prayer. Holiness is being convinced that what God says and what God does and who He is are the same.

When we go to God in prayer, we must have the same integrity between what we say and do that God does because holiness is telling the truth and then living the truth.

## **A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS**

There is much we can learn from God's instructions to Aaron that will help us understand our New Testament role as "a royal priesthood" (**1 Peter 2:9**). We can learn how God told Aaron to enter into His presence on the Day of Atonement so we may understand how He wants us to come into His presence today.

## **TEN WAYS TO PREPARE TO ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

1. Appropriate God's Grace:
  - a. If you desire to enter My presence, your sin has to be dealt with. The first subject of our prayer is not our list of petitions, instead we need to ask ourselves, "Am I in a position to approach God in holiness? Have I examined my own life?"
  - b. God wants to bless us and answer our prayers that is why He tells us to deal with our sins. We need to understand and accept Christ's sacrifice for our sins and repent from wrongdoing. We need to make clean the secret closets of sin and disobedience within us so that we can be effective in prayer. We are forgiven of our sins when we go to Christ. He covers us with His blood and we are cleansed.
2. Put on Righteousness:

Appropriate the righteousness of Christ through faith. Live in that righteousness, doing what is right by keeping in step with the Spirit.
3. Put on Truth and Honesty:

Be transparent and clean before the Lord, desiring truth in the innermost parts and living with integrity.
4. Cleanse with the Word:

Before we enter God's presence, we must be cleansed. Singing songs in a worship service is not sufficient for entering His presence. We are cleanse through the Word of God. The Word will wash you so completely that it will change your heart and mind, even without realizing it.
5. Worship and Praise God:

- Honor and worship God in spirit and in truth.
6. Separate Yourself:  
There is still a place where God meets you in prayer, but it's not a building. It's not even your body. It's a place in God. God has prepared a place in Him just for you, and you need to enter that place.
  7. Believe:
    - a. Have faith in God's power to do what He has promised.
    - b. Believe in the effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice.
  8. Give God the Glory:
    - a. After we enter God's presence through the blood of Jesus, believing in His power to cleanse us, we are to give God the glory.
    - b. A bit of humor – Fat is a symbol of glory because fat is excess.  
Lord, I give you all my fat 😊
  9. Wash in the Word:  
Ask God to fulfill His purposes based on His Will and the promises in His Word.
  10. Remain in the Anointing:  
Remain in the state of preparedness for prayer. We are not to approach God in a careless way. God is a God of holiness. It's important that we learn what it means to honor the Lord and reflect His nature and character in our lives.

**It is because of Christ alone that we can enter the presence of an almighty and holy God and call Him "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).**

### **PRAYER:**

*Heavenly Father,*

*Your Word says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8). We want to enter into Your presence. We want to be in the place where You meet us. Guide us to that place. Forgive us for being careless and unthinking in the way we approach You. We acknowledge that You are a holy and righteous God. We receive the cleansing of our sins through the blood of Jesus. We worship You in humility and love. Thank you for the privilege of being able to enter with confidence into the place where You dwell, because of the atonement that Your Son has made on our behalf. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away all our sin. Amen*

## [Individual/Small Group Activity]

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### **BREAKOUT QUESTIONS**

**What information presented in Chapter 4 impacted/influenced each team member the most?** *(It could be a principle, revelation, understanding, insight or obstacle, etc.)*

1. Is there a genuine reverence for God in the church today? If so, how have we shown a lack of reverence for Him?
2. Please explain what **James 1:5-8** means by double-minded. Is asking God in prayer enough? *(see pgs. 68-70 in the book)*
3. Do we only need to be cleansed from our sins one time or continually? Why or Why not?
4. If Communion means intimacy with our heavenly Father through which we express our love for Him, find out His will and then do it, in what way should our prayers reflect communion with the Father?

**BONUS:** *What step(s) of preparedness will you focus on?*