



## Day Two Devotional.

By Josh Harrison

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*19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 **let us draw near to God** with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

Before we continue on through this passage, let's recap. Through Jesus, God has done something completely new and unexpected. He has made Jesus to be both our high priest, who intercedes for us in the presence of God, and our atoning sacrifice, whose blood purifies us and restores us to right relationship with God. And the result of all this is that the door into the Holy of Holies is wide open. The place where once only the high priest was allowed only once each year is now accessible to every Spirit-filled follower of Jesus at all times. God has made a way for us to be with him!

And if all that's true, I'm not sure, "Let us draw near," is the best way to translate the sentiment the writer of Hebrews is trying to convey. I mean, it's technically correct, but given the magnitude of what is available to us through Jesus, "Let us draw near" seems very polite and formal and stuffy. Probably a better way to translate the tone and spirit of what's being communicated would be something like, "Then, what are you waiting for?! Run to him!" Because why wouldn't we? If everything that we've learned so far is true and the presence of God is readily available to all of us, why would we want to be anywhere else? If there is no barrier between us and him, why would we let anything stand in the way?

The offer here is just too good to refuse. Read any passage of Scripture that talks about the presence of God—the creation story, the wild interventions of the book of Exodus, the dangerous interventions in the book of Leviticus, the warrior God from the period of the kings, the apocalyptic visions of Ezekiel, the life of Jesus of Nazareth, the Holy Spirit stories in the book of Acts, the stunning vision of the throne room and the new Jerusalem in Revelation, and so many more—this is what we're talking about. This is your birthright through Jesus.

So let us draw near! What are you waiting for?! Run to him! There is no barrier between you and him. He won't turn you away.

