



Bethel Sonrise Sermon Notes – “*Better Access*”

Speaker: Raphael Fakoya

Series: Jesus Is Better

Scripture: Hebrews 9

Main Idea

Because of Jesus, we have better access to God than ever before.

Under the Old Covenant, access to God's presence was limited. Through Christ's finished work, the veil has been torn, our consciences have been cleansed, and we have been invited into continual fellowship with our Heavenly Father.

God's Invitation Begins With Him

The book of Hebrews was written to believers who were facing persecution and were tempted to go back to what was familiar.

The author reminds them that although following Jesus may involve sacrifice, He is always better than anything we leave behind.

Hebrews 9 points us to the Tabernacle—a place that wasn't man's idea, but God's.

God instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle because He desired to dwell among His people.

The invitation to God's presence has always originated with Him.

God isn't reluctant to be with us.

He is the One extending the invitation.

Jesus Gave Us Better Access

God is perfectly holy.

Scripture describes Him as a consuming fire.

The problem has never been God's willingness to be near us.

The problem has always been our sin.

Under the Old Covenant:

- **Priests entered the earthly sanctuary.**
- **Animal sacrifices had to be offered repeatedly.**
- **Access was limited and temporary.**

But Jesus became our Great High Priest.

He entered the true heavenly sanctuary once and for all, offering His own blood instead of the blood of animals.

Through His sacrifice we receive:

- **Eternal redemption**
- **Complete forgiveness**
- **Direct access to God**
- **A cleansed conscience**

Because of Jesus, we no longer approach God through repeated sacrifices.

We come through a finished work.

A Cleansed Conscience

One of the greatest barriers to intimacy with God isn't distance.

It's guilt.

Many believers continue carrying shame that Jesus has already paid for.

Instead of resting in His grace, we often respond with what Hebrews calls "dead works."

Dead works are the things we do to try to earn what Jesus has already freely given.

We serve...

We perform...

We strive...

Not because we're loved—but because we're trying to feel worthy of His love.

The blood of Jesus doesn't simply forgive our sins.

It cleanses our conscience.

We no longer have to live under condemnation.

We are free to serve the living God.

Prayer Is More Than Asking

Once we understand the access we've been given, the question becomes:

What do we do with it?

We pray.

But prayer is much more than presenting God with a list of needs.

Prayer is:

- **Worship**
- **Fellowship**
- **Surrender**
- **Alignment**
- **Communion**

God isn't simply the means to getting what we want.

He is the destination.

Prayer isn't ultimately about getting something from God.

It's about getting God Himself.

You Don't Have to Pray Alone

Many believers feel intimidated by prayer because they don't know what to say.

But God never intended for us to figure it out alone.

Jesus is our mediator.

He continually intercedes for us before the Father.

The Holy Spirit also helps us in our weakness.

Even when we don't have the words, He prays on our behalf.

Ps Bolade used the picture of a mother understanding the babbles of her child.

In the same way, our Heavenly Father understands us even when we don't know how to express what's in our hearts.

Prayer isn't about perfect words.

It's about a real relationship.

We Are Invited Into God's Work

Prayer isn't passive.

Through Christ, we have been invited into God's purposes.

As believers, we are called to be priests and kings.

We stand in the gap for:

- **Our families**
- **Our neighborhoods**
- **Our churches**
- **Our cities**
- **Our nation**

Prayer allows us to partner with what God is doing in the earth.

We don't simply react to the world around us.

We intercede on its behalf.

Rest Comes Before Effectiveness

Many believers measure their spiritual lives by activity.

God measures intimacy.

Ps Bolade reminded us that our effectiveness as believers begins with how much rest we find in God's presence.

We cannot effectively minister to others if we have neglected fellowship with Him.

The more we abide in His presence, the more fruitful our lives become.

Final Challenge

Don't allow guilt...

Past failures...

Or a busy schedule...

To keep you from the invitation God has extended.

Your access to God is not based on your performance.

It is based on the finished work of Jesus.

Come boldly.

Spend time with your Father.

Learn to rest in His presence.

Because Jesus has made a better way.

Discussion Questions

1. Ps Bolade said that God's invitation to His presence originates with Him. How does knowing that God desires to be with you change the way you think about prayer?
2. Hebrews teaches that Jesus cleanses not only our sins but also our conscience. How can guilt or shame keep us from drawing near to God, and what does it look like to truly live in the freedom Christ purchased?
3. The sermon described prayer as worship, surrender, fellowship, and alignment—not simply asking God for things. Which of those aspects of prayer do you most naturally practice, and which one would you like to grow in?
4. Ps Bolade reminded us that Jesus and the Holy Spirit both intercede for us. How does that encourage you when you don't know what to pray or feel inadequate in your prayer life?
5. What is one practical step you can take this week to intentionally spend more time in God's presence and experience the rest that comes from abiding with Him?