

# Approaching God

## *Ephesians 3:12*

**Introduction:** There appears, among Christians, a certain insecurity when it comes to our relationship to God. We tend to wonder where we stand before God. This is not wrong or harmful in and of itself. However, we need to realize that Christians do hold a special place with God.

This needs to be emphasized perhaps more often in order to stave off uncertainty. It always strikes me as sad to consider how many Christians are uncertain about their standing before God. Especially is this uncertainty unnecessary in light of the numerous cases there are in the Bible of teaching designed to instill confidence.

### **I. Fellowship With God.**

- A.** The apostle John wrote so fellowship with God and Christ could be understood (**1 Jn. 1:1-4**).
- B.** We need to consider the implication of **1 John 1:6** in reverse form. This would read, **“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in the light, we speak the truth and practice the truth.”** That should give us security.
- C.** Fellowship with God is tendered toward man.
  - 1.** Fellowship with Him is offered by God.
    - a.** It is not that God is seeking fellowship with man.
    - b.** Man must seek reconciliation and fellowship with God (**Eph. 2:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17-20**).
  - 2.** This is an opportunity and should be viewed as a privilege. It is far from being our “right” or “due.”
- D.** God allows us to **“...come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16)**.
  - 1.** There is no misunderstanding it—this tells us to have assurance!
    - a.** We often (and accurately) assign this verse to the subject of prayer.
    - b.** However, we should also notice its words of assurance.
  - 2.** The very thing that can vanquish uncertainty is mentioned here.
    - a.** God has extended to Christians mercy and grace.
    - b.** This is part of the spiritual blessings we find in **Ephesians 1:3**.
    - c.** Realizing that these things are ours should instill us with a feeling of security.
    - d.** Knowing that God will give us the very things we need is of much comfort.

## **II. Words Used In *Ephesians 3:12* Give Us Assurance.**

- A.** Paul has been addressing the “**eternal purpose**” of God (***Eph. 3:11***).
- B.** He now changes and brings his words to bear on things to encourage.
  - 1. G. G. Findlay wrote, “*Suddenly, according to his wont, the apostles drops down from the heights of contemplation to the level of ordinary fact. He descends in verse 12 from the thought of the eternal purpose and the education of angels to the struggling Church*” (The Expositor’s Bible, Ephesians, p. 177).
  - 2. We need the things mentioned in this verse to allow us to be sure and to dispel uncertainty.
- C.** We are told the following exists in our relationship with God:
  - 1. “**Boldness.**” “...*the absence of fear in speaking boldly; hence, cheerful courage, boldness...*” (Vine, p. 140). This refer to “...*the undoubting confidence of Christians relative to their fellowship with God*” (Thayer, p. 491).
  - 2. “**Access.**” “...*a leading or bringing into the presence of, denotes access, with which is associated the thought of freedom to enter through the assistance or favour of another...*” (Vine, p. 23). This is “...*that friendly relation with God whereby we are acceptable to him and have assurance that he is favorably disposed toward us*” (Thayer, p. 544).
  - 3. “**Confidence.**” “*Full persuasion*” (Earle, p. 308). Used “*of trust or confidence in others*” (A-G, p. 649).
  - 4. All these things are attractive to us. They will instill in us the assurance of favor with God. These are now tendered to anyone other than Christians. This is because all are determined “...**through faith in Him**” (that is, Jesus Christ).
  - 5. Hence, as a result of our obedience to the gospel, a host opportunities become available to us. We are in fellowship with God. We have all spiritual blessings. We become “**heirs according to the promise**” (***Gal. 3:29***).

## **III. Faith in Christ and Fellowship With God Has Made Possible:**

- A.** Strength to help in time of need.
- B.** Courage to stand in time of weakness.
- C.** Forgiveness of sin in time of failure.
- D.** Protection through providence when we are unable to see our own way clearly.
- E.** Humility and sound judgment in time of joy and acclaim.
- F.** Wisdom to remember our responsibilities to God.

**IV. Jesus, The Answer For Assurance.**

- A. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. As such, He is the Father's close confidant.
- B. Jesus is also the Son of man. Thus, He is also our close confidant.
- C. ***"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn. 14:6).***
- D. ***"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:6).***
  - 1. It is Jesus who brings us to God.
  - 2. He pleads (mediates) our case before God.
  - 3. Jesus makes it possible for us to appeal to God.
  - 4. He makes it possible for us to receive blessings.
  - 5. It is because of Jesus that we will go to heaven.

**Conclusion:** James says, ***"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded" (James 4:8).*** Let us cast aside uncertainty and insecurity. We should rejoice that we can have boldness and access and confidence through Jesus Christ. Let us appreciate and enjoy the assurance that is derived from such knowledge.