**GRACE (#2)**

***Help at the Throne of Grace***

It was 1965. I was 12 years old. The Beatles were the rage. That summer their new hit song HELP! hit the top of the pop charts. It was written by John Lennon to express his feeling of being overwhelmed by the sudden rise to stardom by these boys from Liverpool England. The song became so popular around the world that it was turned into a movie about these new wonder-kids. Listen to Lennon’s words and feel his feeling of anxiety at all his new-found fame (ok, go ahead, you can sing it with me too)…

Help! I need somebody; Help! not just anybody; Help! you know I need someone; Help!

I never needed anybody's help in any way, But now these days are gone, I'm not so self-assured, Now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the doors.

Help me if you can, I'm feeling down; And I do appreciate you being 'round;
Help me get my feet back on the ground; Won't you please, please help me?

And now my life has changed in oh so many ways; My independence seems to vanish in the haze;
But every now and then I feel so insecure; I know that I just need you like I've never done before.

When I was younger, so much younger than today; I never needed anybody's help in any way;
But now these days are gone, I'm not so self-assured
And now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the doors

Help me if you can, I'm feeling down; And I do appreciate you being 'round;
Help me get my feet back on the ground; Won't you please, please help me, help me, help me, ooh

The great book of Hebrews is really about one thing – Help!

It’s about Help from the only One who can really bless you both here and the hereafter. In this broken world of sin and sorrow we see a world crying out for help and looking in all the wrong places. But nothing has changed in 2,000 years. The Jews of the first century who had converted to Christ were having “buyer’s remorse.” They were having second thoughts about leaving their comfort zone of all those Jewish traditions. Many were wanting to go back to find their security (i.e. Help) in the old ways. The author is reminding them that their Help was not in Moses, Aaron, Angels, Sacrifices, the Temple and other symbols from the past.

Help! I need somebody. Help! Not just anybody. Help! I need someone… JESUS!

*“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore* ***come boldly to the throne of grace****, that we may obtain mercy and* ***find grace to help*** *in time of need.*

This great text of Hebrews 4:14-16 speaks to me like few others in the Bible. My imagination runs wild trying to envision this scene. The high priest in the Old Testament had to wear bells that jingled when he approached the Holy of Holies on the day of Atonement. The entire nation would hold their collective breath when he entered God’s presence around the ark of the covenant, fearing he might be struck dead (Exo. 28:33-35). An Apocryphal legend says it is likely he wore bells so that if the jingling sound stopped they would know to drag his dead body out of the sacred room by pulling on a rope tied to his leg. A dead high priest is no help at all.

But not so with Jesus. Help is always a prayer away. See for yourself in Heb. 7:23-25,

*“Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

Jesus is as alive right now as the day He was resurrected, and the day He ascended to heaven. He is also as active in my salvation as the day He was dying for my sins on that old rugged cross. Please let this sink deep down into your soul – Jesus is at this very moment “*able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him*!”

What that means is we can now “*come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to* ***HELP*** *in our time of need*.”

Can you picture that? Here is how I see it. God is soooo busy. Millions are clamoring for His attention, desperate for help with their problems. The world is screaming for God to show mercy for their physical and emotional pains, and grace for their spiritual pains. The throne room must be booming with calls for help from tearful people from around the world. The noise must be deafening.

Like the hemorrhaging woman who simply wanted to touch the hem of Christ’s garment in the midst of the crowd (Matt. 9:20), I too just hope for only a moment of His busy life to hear my troubles. But as I open my heart in silent prayer with the words, “Dear Father in heaven…” suddenly there is a shout of “SILENCE!” from God to all the heavenly host. You can then hear a pin drop in heaven. Jesus, as He did when He stopped to show grace to that bleeding woman, stops to look at me and says with a smile, “Rick, come near to Me and tell Me what is on your heart.” God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit all give me their undivided attention. Suddenly all eyes and ears are on me at this throne of grace!

I am not to slip in, then slip out, the back door of heaven’s throne. I am to boldly march through the front door with God’s own hand-written (in blood) RSVP invitation. When I knock, it is not some second-class angel who answers the door, but the Son of God slinging it wide open in anticipation of my coming. Listen to this:

*“Therefore, brethren, having* ***boldness*** *to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God,* ***let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith****”* (Heb. 10:19-22).

Help! I need somebody. Jesus replies, “I’m right here.” Rest in peace. – Rick