

## Experiencing Christ in the Book of Hebrews (Part 2 – Hebrews 7-10)

### Meeting 2

The verses in Hebrews may be difficult to apprehend. It takes time, so go back to the messages and spend time reading the Word with a praying spirit. The Lord will open your eyes and give you understanding, not just to know but especially to experience such a wonderful Christ. If you only see Christ as your Redeemer who died on the cross, then your experience will also only be limited to this. But if you see more concerning Christ, that He is our life, for example, then you will have a desire to live Him. Paul said, *“For to me, to live is Christ”* (Phil. 1:21). Why have the Lord live in you, if you just intend to live your own life and ignore Him? Paul said, *“it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”* (Gal. 2:20). This means that in your daily living, in whatever you do, you must experience Christ living in you. By definition, life is active! Your human life is not a dormant life that just exists but does nothing else. It is active and capable of doing all kinds of things. Now imagine what Christ as this wonderful, spiritual, heavenly, divine life dwelling in you can do! He, as this life, wants to be one with us so that we can live Him and glorify God in whatever we do. This is what it means to live Christ!

But our human life is fallen, full of corruption, and sinful. And it is no wonder that the Lord said, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me”* (Luke 9:23). In Revelation 14:4, the firstfruits are *“the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.”* If we do not learn to deny ourselves, it is impossible to follow Him because we have our own concepts, desires and will; usually, we do what we like to do. Once we are saved, we are born again, the Holy Spirit dwells in us, and we must learn to put on Christ (the Lord having crucified our old man). Then, for us to grow in our spiritual life, we must learn to live Christ in whatever we do. Our minds

must be renewed. Paul said, *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”* (Rom. 12:2). There are so many aspects of our being that the Lord wants to transform. He is able to save to the uttermost! When we accept the Lord as our Savior, our sins are forgiven, we are regenerated, and the Holy Spirit comes into us to dwell in us. But that is just the initial salvation. This salvation must continue until He saves every part of our being.

Hebrews 7:24 says, *“But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.”* He is perfect. He does not need to be changed. He is God Himself. His priesthood is unchangeable, unlike the priesthood of Aaron, which changed many times. *“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”* (Heb. 7:25). For Him to make intercession for us means that He petitions and speaks to God on our behalf, to help us. We need this wonderful, great High Priest, who is perfect in His humanity and is able to save us to the uttermost. Therefore, it is important for us to know this wonderful Christ. His saving us to the uttermost is a different aspect of salvation than His redemptive work on the cross, which saves us from the eternal judgment of damnation in the lake of fire. Certainly, once we are saved by God, we will not be judged together with the heathen world because our Lord paid the price and shed His precious blood for the forgiveness of our sins, and we are born again. But that is just the initial salvation, and at the beginning, we are like babes in Christ (1 Cor. 3:1; Eph. 4:14 ; Heb. 5:12-13).

We need to see that this salvation by the life of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit must grow within us. The more it grows, the more we are saved, changed, and transformed into His likeness. This is a different kind of salvation. Initially, to be saved, you just have to come to the Lord Jesus Christ, believe in His name, and receive Him as your Savior. You are saved not by works but by grace; it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9). You do not need to do anything. But being saved to the uttermost is another story. That is why Paul said that you must *“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do...”* (Phil. 2:12b-13). This salvation needs your cooperation because God will not force you to do it; you have a

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free will. For this salvation, we need this wonderful heavenly, great High Priest to help us.

### God's Plan to Bring Many Sons to Glory through Jesus, the Merciful and Faithful High Priest

In Hebrews 2, we see that Jesus Christ went through human life on this earth and was perfected by all kinds of suffering and trials: He overcame Satan, temptation, religion, and all kinds of difficulties, and finally, He also went to the cross. He did this so that He could understand and help us as the heavenly, great High Priest in things pertaining to God for the fulfillment of God's plan and purpose with mankind. We as human beings have plans for our own life. Likewise, God has a great, glorious plan for us! That is why Hebrews 2 continues with God's plan for man. But man failed because he was deceived by Satan; through this, sin entered into mankind, into the flesh (Rom. 5:12; 7:13-20). We became blind and corrupt, unable to fulfill God's plan, which is why we need salvation. Not only did Jesus Christ die and resurrect, but He, as a Man and as our wonderful, great High Priest, made it all the way to the throne above: *"But we see Jesus...crowned with glory honor"* (Heb. 2:9). He is both King and Priest and entered the highest point of the universe for us! We must see that Jesus is not just our Savior, but everything He accomplished, including His ascension and being seated on the throne in glory today, is for our sakes, that we might also fulfill God's plan.

Let us take a closer look at Hebrews 2. The writer quoted King David: *"But one testified in a certain place, saying: 'What is man that You [God] are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him?'"* (Heb. 2:6; Ps. 8:4). Though we are fallen, God is mindful of us; He still cares for us. *"You have made him a little lower than the angels"* (Heb. 2:7a). The word "angels" is actually the word "Elohim" in Hebrew which refers to God. This means the verse actually says that man was made a little lower than God; man was created in a special way – in the image and likeness of God. That is why we are intelligent beings, capable of doing many things. *"You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands"* (Heb. 2:7b). The reason we are created in His image and likeness is for us to have dominion, to rule over God's whole creation (Gen. 1:26). This is our destiny! Man is the only creation

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of God that can rule. No other creature can rule this world. *“You have put all things in subjection under his feet.’ For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him”* (Heb. 2:8a). God put everything in subjection to mankind (not to gorillas, cats or dogs or any animals). *“But now we do not yet see all things put under him”* (Heb. 2:8b) because Adam was deceived by Satan and fell; sin and death entered into man. Look at the result of man’s rule on the earth today; the whole world is a mess. The history of man is the history of world wars, sin, unrighteousness, and killing in every empire. Man has created so many things for mass destruction, like this present day COVID-19 virus. It is terrible. The corrupt elites are ruling; what qualifications do they have to rule over anybody? None! Fallen man cannot fulfill God’s plan.

Hebrews 2:9 says, *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels [Elohim], for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”* Praise the Lord, Jesus Christ is the One who knew no sin and was made sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21)! When He died on the cross for us, God put all our sin on Him (Isa. 53:6). He is the unique sin offering. That is why John 1:29 says, *“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* What a wonderful Savior of mankind. He loves us! That is why He paid the ransom to save us. Do not look at yourself but look away unto Jesus! We see Jesus! He suffered and tasted death for everyone, but now He is crowned with glory and honor!

Now He is the captain of our salvation! *“For it was fitting for Him [God]”* – meaning to say that it was God’s perfect plan – *“for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation [Jesus Christ] perfect through sufferings”* (Heb. 2:10). God’s plan is to bring many sons to glory, so we need to appreciate what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil”* (Heb. 2:14). Praise God! Some of you may think that when Christ died on the cross, He only died for our sins. But this verse shows us that He accomplished much more on the cross! One great thing He accomplished on the cross

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is that He destroyed the devil, Satan, who had the power of death. How? When Satan deceived man, he thought he was so wise to inject himself into mankind; when man fell, sin – the personification of the devil – entered into us. But when Christ became a Man (without sin), He joined humanity. And when He went to the cross, He brought all of mankind to the cross with Him, including the sin in man, and destroyed Satan who was trapped as the sin in mankind. Today, that little Satan may lie to you saying he has power, but in reality, he has no power! He is a little worm. He is nothing. The Lord has already disarmed him! This is why it is important for all of us as God's children to know this verse in Hebrews 2:14 – that Jesus Christ already destroyed him who had power of death, that is, the devil! You must join this verse together with Revelation 1:18, *“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”* That means Jesus Christ controls Hades and Death, not Satan. Satan has no more power – especially over us Christians! Are you afraid of him? Are you afraid of a toothless snake? He has no more fangs, no more poison. The truth is that he has no more power!

*“For indeed He does not give aid to angels”* (Heb. 2:16a) – the angels do not need His help; nor will He save the fallen angels – He is preparing the lake of fire for them. *“But He does give aid to the seed of Abraham”* (Heb. 2:16b). We are all of the seed of Abraham.

*“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God”* (Heb. 2:17a). As a Man, He overcame Satan, religion, all the attacks of the powers of darkness, and all the difficulties and problems of mankind in order to help us. If He had not conquered every situation and every foe, He would not be able to help us today. So the great, heavenly High Priest is not only God, but God who became a Man and went through every challenge and difficulty human beings go through so that He is now able to help and save us to the uttermost! There is no problem He cannot solve, no weakness of mankind that He does not understand and have compassion with, because He became a Man. Whatever our problem is, the Lord is able to sympathize with us because He Himself went through human life as a Man. That is why He can be merciful to us.

Now here is an important phrase I want you all to remember, ***“that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God”*** (Heb. 2:17b). That means, He is not just the great High Priest to help us in things pertaining to man – our weaknesses, problems and temptations – but, much more, to help us in things pertaining to God because He is not just faithful to us, but faithful to God to accomplish God’s plan and purpose through the priesthood. He is the only One who can truly help us. I can share with you what the Word says, but I cannot be with you to do it. Only the heavenly, great High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek can help us in our daily living and in the church life because He is there with us and is even living in us.

He is the only One who is perfected. That is why it is written, *“to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings”* (Heb. 2:10). We fallen human beings are weak. When we go through all kinds of suffering, we surrender to the enemy. Hebrews 2:18 says, *“For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”* He can help us. This is one of the reasons He had to become a Man, not just to die on the cross for our salvation, but to experience all the sufferings, problems, temptations, and challenges of mankind in order to help us. Isn’t that wonderful? I cannot help you because I myself am going through the same sufferings and failures; I am not victorious, so how can I help others to be victorious? If you come to me, I cannot help you, but I can refer you to someone who can! This is what the writer of Hebrews is telling us: we need to experience this great High Priest because He is the only One who is qualified to help us. This is salvation! This is a different aspect of salvation as the one He accomplished through the death on the cross because this salvation requires our cooperation, which we can see in Hebrews 7 to 10.

With this background, the writer goes into more detail to show us how **great** this heavenly High Priest is in Hebrews 7. He is not only a High Priest, but a GREAT and victorious High Priest! When you read these chapters yourself, the Lord will give you wisdom and understanding, not just to know, but to experience the Word. The Word of God is for us to apply. If we don’t know the Lord as this great, heavenly High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, how will we experience Him? In

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what aspect of our spiritual life have we experienced this Melchizedek? We are not righteous because we don't know the King of Righteousness. We have been Christians for many years, but we still fight and disagree with one another because we don't know Melchizedek, King of Peace, who has gone through all problems and has been perfected through suffering.

### The Order of Melchizedek - Superior to the Levitical Priesthood of Aaron

The writer points out why there is a need for the Lord to be a High Priest of a different, higher order, namely the order of Melchizedek. First, the high priests according to the order of Aaron are just ordinary men like Aaron. Because Aaron himself was a sinner just like the rest, he first had to give a sin offering for himself and only then could he give a sin offering for the others. Second, it is impossible for the blood of the animal offerings to cleanse us from all our sins. Hebrews 7:11 says: *“Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?”* This is an important principle we need to understand: can a sinful man help another man to not be sinful? Can a weak man help another person to be strong? No, that would be a joke! The same principle applies to spiritual things. A weak pastor, who himself does not do what he preaches, cannot help you to become a king and priest, even if he graduated from seminary school and may know the Bible. He cannot help anybody because he is just a man who does not live Christ. I am not looking down on pastors or on Aaron – but this is the reality. If I am looking down on them, I am also looking down on myself, as a brother sharing the Word with you. There are not many who live Christ, and they cannot give life because they don't have it. This is why churches everywhere today are in shambles. Instead of coming to the great, heavenly High Priest for help they depend on man. (I am not saying we do not need fellowship and that we do not need brothers who are older. But elders must be examples, not just teachers. What is the use of a teacher if he does the opposite of what he teaches?) Aaron was the high priest, but he could not help anyone. Perfection does not come through the Levitical priesthood because these priests are not perfect; they are sinful. That is

why Christ had to come and had to bring in a higher level of the priesthood, a perfect priesthood. We all need to focus on this heavenly, great High Priest. This is too wonderful! Remember, Hebrews says that we must leave *“the elementary principles of Christ”* and **“go on to perfection”** (Heb. 6:1a). But it is not possible for a man who is not perfect to bring us to perfection. That is why we have a wonderful, great, heavenly High Priest, who made it (was perfected) and is sitting on the throne today! If we know this but ignore Him, that would be really sad. Let us hope that from now on we will change and come and depend on our great, heavenly High Priest. His job is to save us to the uttermost, to perfect the priesthood, to make us like Him, to make us kings and priests.

As in the Old Testament days, the priesthood today also needs a high priest. The high priest must be special. According to Malachi 2:6-7, the word of truth must be in his mouth, no injustice may be found on his lips, he must walk with God in peace and uprightness, and turn many away from iniquity. The knowledge of God must be found on his lips; people should come to him to learn the knowledge of the Lord. He is a messenger of the Lord. He must be holy and righteous. We need Christ as this great, heavenly High Priest.

*“For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law”* (Heb. 7:12). There is a big change from the old covenant to the new covenant. Before, the law was just the written law of the letter; now, in the new covenant, it is the law of life and grace. *“For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe...For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood”* (Heb. 7:13-14). This priesthood is of a different level. If the writer had not written these verses, we would not have understood the need for the priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek.

*“And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest”* (Heb. 7:15) – our Lord Jesus Christ, who actually is Melchizedek – *“who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment,”* (Heb. 7:16a) that is, written commandments. These laws are like the laws in the Philippines – they are written but no one

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follows them. The written law does not work because of our fallen life. The knowledge of the written law cannot help us keep the law. But this great, heavenly High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek helps us – not by teaching and not according to the written law in the Bible, “*but according to the **power of an endless life***” (Heb. 7:16b). “Endless” means that this life is **indestructible, indissoluble**. This verse is very important, and we must write it in our mind and in our heart. This life cannot be defeated. It will not end; it will not get tired or take a vacation. Nothing can stop this life – it went through death and resurrection! The Lord is now alive forevermore! He overcame all His enemies. He cannot be dissolved. He will make you and me more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37). Do you believe that? Who else can serve you with such a life? Only this great High Priest can impart to you and me such an indestructible life through His priestly service. Can you do that? Every time you minister to the saints, do you have the desire “Lord, I want to impart to the saints this indestructible, endless, indissoluble life!” or is your ministry just to have people understand the Bible? Do we minister to others this indestructible life that went through death, conquered everything and resurrected with power? No wonder Paul desired to know the power of His resurrection, of this indestructible life (Phil. 3:10). Our Lord Jesus Christ could not be kept in the grave. On the third day, He rose from the dead! This is the ministry of the wonderful, great High Priest. You need to see this! We need to know this great High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. If not, we are powerless, without life, dead. The Lord said out of our innermost being shall flow rivers of living water (John 7:38). When He spoke, He spoke with the authority of God and power, unlike the scribes and the Pharisees. This great High Priest is different from the Aaronic priesthood.

We need to apply this in our church life today in the priesthood. We need to know this great, heavenly High Priest. When you pray, say, “Lord, great, heavenly High Priest, open my eyes. Give me understanding. I want to know You not just as my Savior, but as the great, heavenly High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. For the sake of the priesthood, teach me and perfect me just as You were perfected when You lived on this earth.” Otherwise, after a certain time, you will give up on serving. You will be stumbled by a problem and will say goodbye and disappear. This happens because we do not know Him.

Can you imagine the Lord quitting His ministry because of a problem or because of failure? He never failed nor was He a quitter! Praise God! If you know Him, you will not quit. *“For He testifies: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek’”* (Heb. 7:17). He is a priest forever, so you better stay a priest forever. Don’t quit when things get difficult or are hard to learn; even if we are slow, it doesn’t matter. Just don’t quit. You have to be a priest forever. Revelation 22:3 says, *“His servants shall serve Him [as priests].”* The word “serve” in Greek refers to a priestly service (not the service of a servant).

*“For the [written] law made nothing perfect”* (Heb. 7:19a). The black and white letter of the law cannot make us perfect. God’s Word is necessary because it is the truth and it is good, but the word without power is just the written letter and will even “kill” and condemn you because it cannot help you fulfill the law (2 Cor. 3:6). Thirty years of reading the Bible alone cannot make you perfect because it is just the written word. It is the Spirit of life and the power that works within you that will perfect you, not the reading and the knowledge of the written law.

*“On the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God”* (Heb. 7:19b). The better hope is the new covenant full of grace and the supply of life, with the wonderful, great High Priest helping us and drawing us to God. We need to come to Him. It is our privilege as priests to be able enter into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies. Hebrews 10:19 tells us to come boldly into the presence of God and spend time in the Holy of Holies as priests. If we spend time in the presence of God, we will be like Moses who spent forty days and nights on the top of the mountain with God. When Moses came down from the mountain his face was shining (Exod. 34:29-35). Are we also shining?

*“And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath”* (Heb. 7:20-21a). The priests in the Levitical priesthood did not become priests with an oath, because their lives were so short. Aaron could not be a priest forever because he passed away. *“But He [the Lord Jesus] with an oath by Him [God] who said to Him: ‘The Lord has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest*

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*forever according to the order of Melchizedek”)* (Heb. 7:21b). God swore with His own name *“You are a priest forever.”* That means that with Lord, there is no change of priests. Wonderful! He is a priest forever! Do you think that a great High Priest is still needed in the heavenly Jerusalem and the new heaven and the new earth? Yes, because He is a priest forever! And we should also be priests forever! So we should start being priests now, even if people laugh or persecute us. God will never repent for what He has said concerning the priesthood. That Jesus Christ is a priest forever implies that He is perfect. You and I need a lot of change. People don’t like to change and remain the same year after year; and even if there is change, many times it is not for the better. But our Lord will never change and does not need to change because He is perfect!

*“By so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant”* (Heb. 7:22). Now, Jesus has become a guarantee. This must be a wonderful guarantee! Companies with lifetime warranties can close shop – if a guarantor goes out of business, then the guarantee is useless. But this wonderful Christ is the guarantor and guarantee of the new covenant. He guarantees whatever He has promised and guarantees that you will make it, one way or another. That means if a person is saved, he cannot be unsaved. This word alone nullifies the concept of yo-yo salvation – a salvation where one day you are saved, but the next you are lost again. Here is the guarantee: once you are saved, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise; you are sealed with a surety. This is the wonderful guarantee of your salvation. It is yours forever! He is the pledge, the surety, the guarantee of a better covenant. In the old covenant, there was no guarantee; it depended on if you followed the law every day or not. That is why the old covenant did not work. But its very special function was to preserve God’s people from being lawless, although they were lawless. It was like a fence around God’s people. But now we have a much better covenant and a much better guarantee. Praise the Lord! Everything is better with this great, heavenly High Priest!

*“Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing”* (Heb. 7:23). There had to be many priests, because if there had only been two or three, the priesthood would have ceased

after their deaths. The problem with any office is that the person holding the office cannot continue forever, so there is no continuity. If a CEO dies, and the next CEO is not as good as he is, then the company will go downhill and may even disappear. A change in CEOs can cause this to happen. That is why the priesthood in the old covenant went up and down; at the time of Eli, for example, the state of priesthood was not good.

*“But He [Christ], because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood”* (Heb. 7:24). Now, in Christ, we have an unchangeable priesthood. It is always steady, very constant, never wavering, always great and victorious. Our Lord is very constant. He never changes. We change our minds all the time, our mood changes throughout the day. Can you imagine if the Lord would change His mind all the time – liking you one day but not the next? That would not be good. But He would never do that because He never changes. Recall how in Malachi 3:6 the LORD of hosts explained that the reason He did not consume and destroy the Israelites is that He does not change. His calling is irrevocable. Everything in this world is so volatile and unstable – this is also how we are; but this wonderful, great, heavenly High Priest, our God, never changes. And He will never lie. He is very reliable, whereas nothing on this earth today is reliable.

Hebrews 7:25a: *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.”* We may fail many times. But He is always there to help us. We can repent and come back to God through Him. He can change us! I am not perfected yet. But I can testify that the Lord has done a wonderful job in changing me – not overnight, but over close to eight decades. Praise God, the Lord must and can change us! He is able to save us to the uttermost. You and I must be such testimonies of how He can change and save us to the uttermost. People must see the change in you. Wives must see the changes in their husbands, and the husbands must see the changes in their wives. Children must see the changes in their parents, and the parents need to see the changes in their children. Can you imagine if your children didn’t change? That was the problem in Hebrews 5 and 6 – they did not change but remained babes. But now the solution is that we have a High Priest who is able to

save you and me to the uttermost! Don't you want to be changed? We all need to be changed!

To be saved to the uttermost, you must understand the process of transformation. Look at a picture of when you were two years old and compare it to how you look now. You will see a lot of outward, physical changes, right? Now, in our spiritual life, have we changed to be more like Him? Our being changed is not without a goal. Our goal is to be changed into His likeness, to be conformed into the image of the firstborn Son of God (Rom. 8:29). The Word gives us a very clear picture of how we should be. It is not a random change nor is it a matter of how we would like to change. We want to be like Him, to put off the old man, and put on the new man which was created according to God and is being renewed day by day into the image of Christ (Eph. 4:23-24; 2 Cor. 4:16). To be saved to the uttermost is to be transformed into His likeness. You will notice if you are changing or not. Paul told Timothy that his progress should be evident to all (1 Tim. 4:15). This is the real testimony. I hope that we will all learn and desire to be saved to the uttermost.

He is able to save to the uttermost *“those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them”* (Heb. 7:25b). Every day we need to come to Him. The Lord is always interceding for us, standing for us, and pleading for us before the Father. And we also must pray for one another wherever we are. Remember to pray for all the brothers and sisters (not just to talk or fellowship). Our prayer for the saints should be according to God's plan and purpose.

### A High Priest Who is Fitting for Us

The writer continues to describe what kind of a High Priest the Lord Jesus Christ is. If we want to be conformed to His image, we must know what He looks like. *“For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens”* (Heb. 7:26). Only a glove with five fingers is fitting for your hand; a glove with three fingers will not do. Jesus Christ is such a wonderful High Priest who is fitting, very suitable and just right for us to meet our needs exactly.

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The first and foremost point is that our great High Priest is **holy**. This is important. Ephesians 1:4 says that God has chosen us *“in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”* This is because God is holy and desires us to be like Him. This is also why Hebrews 12:14 says, *“Pursue...holiness, without which no one can see the Lord.”*

The first meaning of sanctification (being made holy) is to be separated. The second meaning is intrinsic: for our inner (innate) nature to be holy, we must be partakers of His divine nature; the very nature of God is holiness. The nature of Satan is defilement, evil, sin. But our God is holy. So we need to pursue holiness. 2 Corinthians 7:1 even says to *“[perfect] holiness in the fear of God.”* If we are not holy, when He comes, there will be judgment.

The second point is that He is **harmless**. Are you harmless or do you do harm to others? To be harmless means that you are very considerate of others and would never do anything that would cause problems for others – especially for the brothers and sisters. Don't be a stumbling block to them. Do not hurt their inward feelings. When the Lord was on this earth, did He ever do anything to harm, take advantage of people or put them down? No, in His relationship to other people He was harmless. He never thought evil of other people, nor did He ever wish others harm. He never desired to cause others to suffer loss but preferred to suffer loss Himself and bear the sins of other people. He chose rather to be poor and make others rich. He never caused others to suffer so that He could have some gain for Himself. The Lord is harmless. This is how our relationship to one another should be. Since we have such a wonderful, great High Priest who bore all our sins in His own body and died on the cross for us and suffered for our sake that we might be saved, let us do that for one another!

He is also **undefiled, separated from sinners**. This does not mean that we should not talk to anyone who is a sinner anymore; if that were the case, we would end up talking to nobody! Paul did warn the Corinthians not to keep company with a brother committing sins so that he would have a chance to repent and feel ashamed concerning his sins (not so that he could be thrown out). But he did not mean to not keep company

with the sinners of the world, like the covetous and immoral people (1 Cor. 5:9-11)! To be separate from sinners means to not participate in what they are doing. Be wise and discerning! If you come too near and do not separate yourself, you will be infected. For example, people now promote social distancing to prevent viruses from spreading. I am not sure if that really works, but the principle works. If you come too close to people using black paint, it is very likely that your clothes will be stained with black paint. Don't think we are invulnerable! We are all very vulnerable. Don't think that you won't be tainted or influenced by what you see and hear and consume. If you are open to everything, everything will come in. All of the holes on your face are receptors. Whatever you see, you will dream about. Whatever you hear will come into you. Whatever music comes into you will keep playing in your head. Whatever you breathe gets into you. So breathe fresh air! Whatever you eat also gets into you. You have all these wonderful receptors but be careful as to where you go and what you take in – don't be open to all the things and think that you can discern. No, you are not that capable of discerning everything. The enemy, the serpent, is wiser than you. If you think you are wise, remember that the serpent is wiser than you. He is the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9) and has been practicing the art of deceiving for millennia.

But our great High Priest has become **higher than the heavens**. This is the only place the enemy cannot reach, because it is the highest point in the universe, and it is where God's throne is. If you are on this earth, you will be defiled. Where are you? Are you with Him in the Spirit, sitting with Him in the heavenlies? That is the place to be in our daily living! Then you will be untouchable. Praise the Lord for such a great, wonderful, perfect High Priest!

*“For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever”* (Heb. 7:28). What a wonderful High Priest!

*Note: The above content has not been reviewed by the speaker.*