

Hebrews 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Analysis

This verse inaugurates one of Scripture's most compelling invitations to confident worship. 'Having therefore, brethren, boldness' (ἔχοντες οὖν, ἀδελφοί, παρρησίαν, echontes oun, adelphoi, parrēsian) begins with a participle indicating believers presently possess this confidence. Παρρησία (parrēsia) denotes freedom of speech, boldness, fearless confidence—used for citizens' right to address governing authorities without fear. This word appears in secular Greek for frank speech before kings. Applied to approaching God, it's revolutionary: believers have unrestricted access to the Holy King. The basis follows: 'to enter into the holiest' (εἰς τὴν εἴσοδον τῶν ἀγίων, eis tēn eisodon tōn hagiōn)—the Most Holy Place where God's presence dwelt, previously accessible only to the high priest once annually (Leviticus 16). The means is specified: 'by the blood of Jesus' (ἐν τῷ αἷματι Ἰησοῦ, en tō haimati Iēsou). Christ's shed blood accomplished what animal sacrifices could never achieve: permanent, complete atonement opening God's presence to all believers. The preposition ἐν (en, by/through) indicates both means and sphere—Christ's blood is the basis and environment of our access.

Historical Context

The author writes to Jewish Christians tempted to return to temple worship and Levitical priesthood (c. AD 64-69, before temple's AD 70 destruction). They faced persecution for faith in Christ and nostalgic longing for Judaism's visible, tangible rituals. The writer demonstrates Christ's priesthood's superiority throughout chapters 7-10. In temple worship, only the high priest entered the Holy of Holies

once yearly on the Day of Atonement, after elaborate purification rituals and carrying animal blood. Common worshipers remained distant, separated from God's presence by curtains and court restrictions. The high priest himself entered with fear, uncertain whether God would accept his sacrifice. Christ's death radically changed everything: the temple veil tore top to bottom (Matthew 27:51), symbolizing the barrier's removal. All believers now enjoy direct access previously reserved for the high priest—but with greater confidence since Christ's perfect sacrifice guarantees acceptance. Early church fathers emphasized this democratization of priesthood, later recovered by Reformers against Catholic hierarchy.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding your 'boldness' to approach God (not timidity or presumption) change your prayer life and worship?
2. What might tempt you to abandon this direct access to God in favor of human mediators or religious rituals?
3. How should the costliness of your access (Christ's blood) affect both your confidence and your reverence in approaching God?

Interlinear Text

"Ἐχοντες οὖν ἀδελφοι παρρησίαν εἰς τὴν εἴσοδον

Having therefore brethren boldness to enter

G2192

therefore

G3767

brethren

G80

boldness

G3954

to

G1519

G3588

enter

G1529

τῷν ἀγίων ἐν τῷ αἵματι Ἰησοῦ

into the holiest by the blood of Jesus

G3588

into the holiest

G39

by

G3588

the blood

G129

G2424

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 2:18 (Parallel theme): For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Hebrews 9:12 (Blood): Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 4:16 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 3:12 (Parallel theme): In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Hebrews 12:28 (Parallel theme): Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Romans 5:2 (Parallel theme): By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1 John 4:17 (Parallel theme): Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

Romans 8:15 (Parallel theme): For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

2 Timothy 1:7 (Parallel theme): For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Hebrews 9:3 (Parallel theme): And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;