

Hello! This is Dorothy -

We are reading in **Hebrews, chapter 4**, and I want us to turn to that little verse between **12 and 16**, which says -

15 For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One - that One is a capital O - Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning.

A high priest, all through the Old Testament, once a year, would go into the Holy of holies. But he couldn't go representing the needs and the sins of the people, without, first and foremost, having to have his own sin taken care of. But we are talking about Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, our Great High Priest. We do not need to go to another, for He is our High Priest; we can go straight to Him. As we do so, He is going to understand everything; He understands every temptation, but, it is a beautiful phrase: **yet without sinning**. Therefore, only the sinless spotless Son of God, in the Holy of holies in Heaven, can stand on your behalf and on mine.

He isn't out there to condemn you as His child. He is not there to say, "Ah yes, but three years ago, you did such a thing and I have that on my little list against you and you are going to have to be punished for that some way or other." *No!* The extraordinary thing is that because of what we call the finished work, the work was completed to pay for all our sin. In His love, He is not looking inside your heart and

mine and trying to pull out what's evil and wrong, but He is saying, "I love you and I want to be everything for you. I forgive and I cleanse, because I want you to walk in Me in total dependence."

Have you ever seen a baby trying to walk? It falls down and, in falling down, it might pull something down at the same time and create quite a havoc! But the parent who loves that child rushes over with sheer glee and says, "Oh, you're walking! You are beginning to walk! You are such a clever little fellow or girl!"

You see, the Lord knows all about our frame and who we are. He is not looking at the yesterdays. He cleanses that which we ask to be forgiven. Would you be willing to walk on a daily basis of knowing that cleansing? For if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us, to cleanse us of our sins; to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Will you tell the Lord, *Lord, I have been living in the guilt of yesterday!* That is Satan bringing up that guilt to you, not the Lord! That which He has forgiven, He will not remember as far as the east is from the west - so far has He removed our transgressions from us. So, thank the Lord that, because of His finished work, He is not trying to find the wrong in us; He is encouraging us in His Word to walk dependent upon Him.

I have found that so much legalism can creep into our own hearts. We are trying to keep up and we expect others to keep up and then we don't have room to understand that God is working in their lives as He is working in ours. The good thing in any one of us is Jesus Christ.

It goes on to say in these verses -

16 Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace - *I want you to start to do that many times a day* - (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

You know, when I have done something and I know I have to make that right with God and man, I kind of go into that complex of thinking that the Lord is going to be very upset with me. But, for some strange reason, I find that His grace and His love and His tenderness seem to be poured out upon me as never before. He knows me and He knows I want to make that right and I didn't want that wrong, but as I have confessed it and made it right, I am amazed that but it all but draws me closer to Himself in that way. He does that.

It is rather like a mother with many children. For some reason or other, when the child is very sick, out of all that bunch, she seems to have more time and more attention and more understanding for that rather cantankerous little child playing up, because he is not well. That seems to be how God deals with us. He overwhelms me with the way He loves me; He overwhelms me with the way He forgives me; He overwhelms me as He says, "I am not looking at that; I have taken care of that on the Cross. Be dependent on Me." We learn in this very procedure to count those things as covered as we go forward in new ways to see how to help others in the same position. It is going to be His overflowing grace and victory that will prove to those around that He is an abundant great High Priest, caring for us in every situation with arms extended in love.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.