

“From Confusion to Clarity” Part 4

Mount of Olives | October 4, 2026 | Hebrews 4:14-16

Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, You have created us to be like You: loving, kind, and compassionate. Yet, when we get consumed by the interests and stresses of this world, Your divine attributes get depleted in our lives. We need Your clarity to understand what leads to fulfillment in our lives. On this Communion Sunday, draw us once again into Your will and Your purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Message Notes

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:7

then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

Genesis 3:4-5

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Colossians 3:12

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

Study Questions – Read Hebrews 4:1-16

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. Have you ever been confused about something, only to have one piece of information suddenly make everything clear? What was that experience like?
2. When life feels confusing or uncertain, what do you tend to do first—try to figure everything out yourself, ask someone for help, pray, or simply wait and see what happens?

Based on Hebrews 4:1-16, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read Hebrews 4:1-16, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. Read Hebrews 4:1–2. What “promise” does the writer say is still available to us? What does this tell us about God’s desire for His people?
2. Verse 2 says that hearing the good news was not enough for the Israelites because the message was not united with faith. What is the difference between *hearing* God’s Word and *trusting* God’s Word?
3. Read Hebrews 4:3–5. What does the writer mean by entering God’s “rest”? How is this rest connected to believing God?
4. The writer repeatedly talks about “today.” Why do you think the word *today* is important in this passage? What does it communicate about our response to God?
5. Read Hebrews 4:6–8. Why does the writer continue to emphasize that there is still an opportunity to enter God’s rest? What warning is being given?
6. What can cause a person to become spiritually confused about God—even when they have heard His Word many times?
7. Read Hebrews 4:9–11. What does it mean to “make every effort” to enter God’s rest? How can we reconcile *resting in God* with *making every effort*?
8. Verse 12 says, “For the word of God is living and active.” What does this tell us about Scripture? How can God’s Word bring clarity when our thoughts, emotions, or circumstances are confusing?
9. How does God’s Word expose what is happening inside of us? Why might that be uncomfortable—but ultimately helpful?
10. Read Hebrews 4:14–15. What does the passage tell us about Jesus as our great High Priest? How does knowing that Jesus understands our weaknesses bring clarity to our relationship with God?
11. Verse 15 says Jesus was tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Why is this important when we are struggling with temptation, failure, doubt, or confusion?
12. Read Hebrews 4:16. What are we invited to do because Jesus is our High Priest? How does “approaching the throne of grace with confidence” change the way we respond when life feels confusing?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. Where in your life right now do you need God to move you from confusion to clarity? What would it look like to bring that situation honestly before Jesus?
2. Is there something God has already made clear through His Word that you are struggling to trust or obey? What might faithful obedience look like?

3. When you feel confused, do you tend to trust your feelings, your circumstances, your own understanding, or God's promises? What could help you turn to God's Word first?
4. Hebrews 4:16 invites us to approach God's throne with confidence. What keeps you from coming to God honestly and confidently? How does Jesus change that?
5. This passage moves us from uncertainty to confidence: God has made a way, Jesus understands us, God's Word speaks truth, and grace is available. What is one truth from Hebrews 4:1–16 that you need to hold onto this week when life feels confusing?