

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#31: “BROUGHT NEAR” TO GOD

Just as “forgiveness” and being made “perfect” have both permanent non-experiential *positional realities* as well as temporal experiential *fluctuating statuses* so to with being “brought near to God” through Christ. Positionally, we have been brought near to God through the work of Jesus Christ, but there are also aspects of being near God on a separate temporal fellowship level. Apart from making the distinction between our permanent position and the flux of our temporal fellowship, the believer can move into grave error very quickly. Further, once a believer moves into error, it is very hard to correct. One of the hardest things to do is to teach someone who has error in his thinking. It is always easier to teach someone who is ignorant about something than it is to teach someone whose mind is filled with errors. As long as the error is there you cannot teach them. You must remove the error before there can be any true edification in a particular area. Of course, the best situation is when you have a believer who has a correct understanding because then you can build on it. One of the reasons we are going through all of the prolegomena at FBC (logic, truth, metaphysics) is because there is so much false thinking, even among so-called doctrinal believers in these areas. I must first remove the false thinking, before I can edify the believer in the grand truths of the Word of God. I will cover what “edify” really means at a later time—it does not just mean memorizing facts about the Bible or Bible doctrine. One must go beyond analytical thinking and move into synthetic thinking before one can really be doctrinally mature. To be able to spit out doctrinal terms or to be able to use doctrine *simply* to handle some immediate *need* does not qualify as really understanding Bible doctrine or what it is all about. More on this at a later time.

At the moment you believed in Jesus Christ your position changed. You went from being a child of Satan, a child of wrath, to being a child of God (Eph. 2:1-3). You were brought near to God because you were imputed (not imparted with) the very righteousness of Jesus Christ. You will always be near and dear to God because of this positional truth.

There is also an aspect of being near God on a fellowship level. This most definitely has experiential characteristics. “Experiential” is a term that we will have to spend a bit of time unpacking someday. For now, here are some principles: 1) Experiential is not to be confused with being emotional, although it may or may not include emotions; 2) there are two categories of the authentic experiential Christian life—one that deals with the experience of conscious awareness of God as the Transcendent One, the other deals with the experience of the fruit of the Holy Spirit as we are in fellowship with God, e.g., love, joy, peace (Gal. 5:22); 3) as we walk with God throughout each day we experience God in the sense of our awareness of God through doctrinal concepts (there is no empirical connection with God) coupled with the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit; 4) as we are in fellowship with God the Holy Spirit, by virtue of contact with Him, He produces spiritual experiences of love, joy, peace, etc.; 5) experience that is a result of awareness of God comes in various stages according to one’s doctrinal growth and

spiritual status; 6) as a baby believer we may have great awareness of God but little content on who God is—this must be corrected lest the believer moves into an empirical orientation to God; 7) a mature believer out of fellowship may have great storehouses of rich doctrinal development of God, but because he is carnal he may have very little awareness of God; and 8) the mature believer who is in fellowship (seeking God/Truth) is the ideal because he has enormous awareness of God that is *accurate and deep*.

There are only two reasons why a believer does not have an awareness of God that transcends everything in his life: either he does not really know God as He really is, or he just does not care (due to carnality/distractions). At any rate, regardless of where the believer is, he has been brought near to God, a nearness that is filled with a plethora of eternal and temporal blessings. It is because we have been positionally and permanently brought near to God, we are exhorted to draw near to Him existentially—by moment by moment fellowship.

Positional truth #30: “Brought Near” to God.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

In Christ,

Pastor Don