

VISION SUNDAY 2022 - Presence

January 2, 2022 Hebrews 10:19-25

OPENING QUESTION

What was your favorite Christmas gift this year - either to give or to receive? Were you inspired this Christmas season? What is one thing you would like to accomplish in 2022?

THE PRESENCE OF GOD - Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- “WE have...for US...WE have...let US” - it's not all about individual faith.
- We have a great High Priest, Jesus, who has atoned for our sins once and for all. Jesus is not taking sin offerings anymore - it's all paid for!
- We can draw near to what has already been accomplished.
- If we try to enter the presence of God with our religious actions to somehow prove we're worthy of His presence, we're missing His presence the entire time.
- God is ever-present - all day, every day. He's always there, IN EVERYTHING we do...good or bad. Sinful or not. God is present.
- A sincere heart and a full faith allow us to be aware of God's presence.
- God is faithful to His promises. He will never waver! Never leave us nor forsake us. His presence is a promise!

For the glory of God, Northwood will **inspire and equip** every member to live and love like Jesus by helping us step into God's story for our lives through engaging our domains, so that collectively, Northwood becomes a church **woven into the fabric of our cities globally.**

INSPIRE - Hebrews 10:25

- Sundays and ministry opportunities are not just about you individually - it's about all of us meeting and worshipping together corporately!
- At NorthWood, we commit to creating an opportunity for you (collectively) to acknowledge and become aware of and experience the presence of God.

What are some things that inspire you? Are there other people in your life that inspire you? How does God and His word inspire you?

EQUIP - Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:11-16

- *Consider* - to ponder, think deeply
- *Spurring* - to irritate, to sharply disagree
- if you don't have some people around you whom you allow sometimes to sharply confront you, you're not going to grow.
- *Encourage* means to come alongside, to make both of you stronger.

What's the difference between *spurring* and *encouraging*? Can you encourage someone you disagree with? Can they encourage you?

MOBILIZE - Matthew 28:18-20

- To live and love like Jesus in the community through love and good deeds so that our world might become aware of the PRESENCE of God.
- Good deeds and works means active, compassionate service to others, regardless of their response to the gospel.

What is the first step in mobilizing to do good works and deeds for others? How can you be intentional about mobilizing in the new year?



CLOSING QUESTIONS

Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

Obey

What does it mean to you that God is always with you? Do you ever try to “buy” God's favor by making promises to Him? What if you accepted His presence in your life regardless of your current situation or choices? What truths can be applied to your life from the verses this week?

Pray

Pray that you are overwhelmed by the love and presence of God this season and recognize God is present with you today, tomorrow, and forever. Ask God to give you the courage it takes to hear and obey. How does Hebrews 10:19-25 spur and encourage you?