

ACCESS GRANTED

My husband is the fire chief for our county's department. He also serves in several capacities with emergency first responder type things. Over the years he has responded to traffic accidents, weather related incidents and fires of various kinds. In some of these emergency situations it becomes necessary for traffic to be shut down so that the first responders can do their work. Not long ago, we experienced a large grass fire in our county and about twenty miles of highway had to be closed. It occurred to me that while others are being stopped and re-routed, I have always been allowed to pass through the barricades and get to the scene of the incident. I have become accustomed to this. I know I have access and I never give it a second thought. I am given special privileges, not because of who I am or what I have done, but because of who my *husband* is. Because of the office he holds and the authority he carries, I'm allowed to pass.

The Lord used this opportunity to teach me two things that day. First, He reminded me that we are the *bride of Christ* and have been granted access to the throne of grace. It is not because of who we are or what we have done, but because of who our Bridegroom (our *husband*) is. It is because of His position that we are able to go boldly to the throne just as I can go boldly to the incident sites.

In times past I had struggled with the word 'boldly' in Hebrews 4:16.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Because of religion and false humility, that word had taken on an air of arrogance to me. How could we, being human, go *boldly* to the holy throne of the Most High God? Quite frankly, that offended me. The Lord encouraged me this day by showing me that I don't approach those emergency barricades with arrogance. I just *know* that my husband has called and that I will be allowed to approach the scene. It is confidence...not arrogance. It is a confidence in my husband's position...not mine. In the same manner, I can boldly approach the throne of grace...confident that I will be allowed to enter...not by my own merit, but because my Bridegroom King has called. I can enter with surety because the Righteous One has made me righteous.

Secondly, He reminded me that when I have been called to enter an emergency scene, I *know* firsthand what is going on. I watch the scene play out with my own eyes. I hear my husband discussing strategies and see those strategies being put into action. I *know* the facts because I've been with my husband. However, those on the outside of the barricade do not have access to the same information. That becomes very evident upon leaving the scene. I hear rumors and speculations. I see confusion and chaos. I receive phone calls of worry and panic. It is so easy for me to discern the truth from a lie. Why? Because I have actually been on 'the inside'. I have witnessed for myself what is happening. I am immovable when the stories fly because I **know** what is real. I am unaffected by false theories and what somebody heard somebody say. I **KNOW** because I have SEEN. I can put an end to rumors. I can bring reassurance and comfort to those in fear. I am confident in what I know and have seen.

In the same way, when we have been called to enter the presence of our Bridegroom Jesus and to witness for ourselves what He is saying, we are able to discern the truth from the lie. We can be immovable because we have heard Him speaking. We have seen His heart. We can bring truth to the lies...light to the darkness...calm to the chaos...comfort to those in fear. We can come against the schemes of the enemy because we have been given the strategies of Heaven. We know the truth because we have been on 'inside' with our Husband.

***“He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.”
Matthew 13:11***

It is Christ's desire for us to enter into His presence. He invites us to approach the throne of grace with confidence to receive mercy, to experience Love, to receive instruction, to bring Heaven to earth. Jesus removed all the roadblocks and all the barriers when He gave His life for us. That's why the veil of the Temple was split from top to bottom when Christ was crucified. The curtain that veiled the Holy of Holies was now, for the first time, opened up to all who would receive. We are called to enter boldly and then be a witness of what we see and hear. Those on the outside cannot know thus, they live in fear. Entering in comes from an intimate relationship with our King. Many believers still don't know they can enter in to the Most Holy Place...into the bridal chambers. They don't know they can be privy to the strategies of Heaven and yet the call is there. Hear His call and respond to His voice today. Enter in to His presence and you will never be the same. You've been granted access.