# Supernatural Life Forum



# President's Greetings

As we approach the close of another year, I encourage each of us to take a moment to reflect on the abundant goodness of God. His faithfulness has carried us through every season, and as we look back, we can see His hand in our lives in ways both big and small.

This is a time for us to not only be grateful for His love but also to share that same love with others. Just as we have been recipients of the Father's unwavering love, let us extend that love in our communities, families, and beyond.

As we move towards the end of the year, may our hearts be filled with gratitude and our actions be an overflow of the love we've received. Together, let's continue to grow in the knowledge of His goodness and walk boldly into the new year.

Samuel Sanni President, Supernatural Life Forum

A: Calgary, AB, Canada

E: info@supernaturallifeforum.com

### **Christ Above All: An Introduction to Hebrews**

The Book of Hebrews is a theological masterpiece, rich with insights into the supremacy of Christ. Written to Jewish Christians facing persecution, it reminds us to fix our eyes on Jesus and trust in His finished work. Its timeless message resonates today as we navigate distractions and challenges to our faith.

#### Why Study Hebrews?

Hebrews was written to believers tempted to revert to Old Testament practices. They were discouraged, facing persecution, and questioning if holding onto Jesus was worth it. This letter serves as an anchor, calling us to persevere by focusing on Christ, who is superior to angels, Moses, and the entire Old Covenant system.

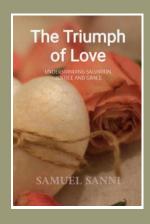
# **Authorship and Audience**

The author of Hebrews remains unknown, with figures like Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, and Luke suggested over the centuries. What's clear is that the Holy Spirit inspired this work, making it a divine message for all believers. It was addressed to Jewish Christians, likely written before the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, when the Temple was destroyed. This context highlights the urgency of the letter's call to faithfulness.

# **Key Themes in Hebrews**

#### 1. The Supremacy of Christ

Hebrews opens with a declaration: God, who spoke through prophets in the past, now speaks through His Son. Jesus is greater than angels, Moses, and the priesthood. He is the ultimate revelation of God (Hebrews 1:1-4).



The Triumph of Love by Samuel Sanni

Experience the power of love in its purest form. The Triumph of Love by Samuel Sanni is now available! Dive into a transformative journey that will inspire, uplift, and challenge your perspective on love, grace, and divine purpose.

Available on:

Amazon

Indigo

**Barnes & Noble** 

**ThriftBooks** 

...and many more!

You can also place your order directly by emailing the publisher at:

info@supernaturallifeforum.com

Don't miss out on this life-changing read!

#### 2. The New Covenant

The Old Covenant, with its rituals and sacrifices, was a shadow of what was to come. Jesus establishes a New Covenant, superior and eternal, offering better promises through His death and resurrection (Hebrews 8:6-7).

#### 3. Faith and Endurance

The famous "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11 recounts examples of Old Testament saints who trusted God despite their circumstances. Hebrews 12:1-2 exhorts believers to run their race with endurance, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of faith.

#### 4. Jesus as High Priest

Unlike earthly priests who offered repeated sacrifices, Jesus, our eternal High Priest, made a once-for-all sacrifice for sin. Hebrews 4:14-16 and 10:10 emphasize that His work enables us to approach God's throne with confidence.

#### A Glimpse into Hebrews 1:1-3

The opening verses of Hebrews set the stage for the entire book, presenting Jesus as the ultimate revelation of God.

"In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

From this passage, we see seven ways Jesus is superior:

#### 1. Jesus Is the Heir of All Things:

Jesus is the rightful owner of creation, sharing His inheritance with believers (Colossians 1:15, Romans 8:17).

#### 2. Jesus Made the Universe:

As the agent of creation, Jesus brought all things into existence, including time and space (Colossians 1:16, John 1:1-3).

#### 3. Jesus Is the Radiance of God's Glory:

He reflects God's majesty, like the sun's rays reveal the brilliance of the sun itself (Hebrews 1:3).

#### 4. Jesus Is the Exact Representation of God's Being:

Jesus perfectly embodies God's nature and essence, as seen in His words and actions (Colossians 1:19, John 12:45).

#### 5. Jesus Sustains All Things by His Powerful Word:

He upholds the universe, keeping it in perfect order (Colossians 1:17).

#### 6. **Jesus Made Purification for Sin:**

By His sacrifice, Jesus provided a permanent solution to humanity's sin problem (Colossians 1:19-20).

7. Jesus Sat Down at the Right Hand of God:

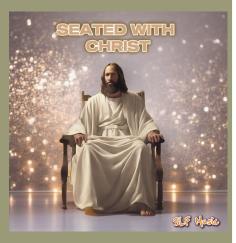
Experience the Power of Grace and Worship

SLF Music proudly presents Seated with Christ—a soul-stirring two-volume gospel album written and produced by Samuel Sanni.

6 16 Inspiring Tracks Each song celebrates our identity in Christ, His faithful love, and the fullness of His grace. From Afrobeat grooves to heartfelt worship, this album has something for everyone.

77 Available Now
Stream Seated with Christ on all
platforms and let these melodies
draw you closer to the heart of
God.

Preview the album: slfmusic.hearnow.com



# Encouraging Spiritual Dialogue (Grace Empowered)

Fostering open-ended conversations about faith is essential for helping children develop a personal, grace-filled relationship with God. It's not about presenting them with a set of rules or imposing a list of do's and don'ts. Instead, it's about creating a nurturing space where they feel free to ask questions, wrestle with doubts, and experience the joy of knowing a God who loves them unconditionally.

His seated position signifies the completion of His work, and He now reigns victoriously (Colossians 1:18).

#### **Living in Light of Christ's Supremacy**

The truths in Hebrews 1:1-3 are not just theological; they're practical. They call us to worship, trust, and live in obedience. Recognizing Jesus as the heir, creator, sustainer, and savior invites us to re-center our lives on Him.

#### Reflection

Take time this week to meditate on Hebrews 1:1-3. How does the supremacy of Jesus shape your view of challenges, faith, and daily decisions? How can you respond to His greatness in worship and trust?

#### What's Next?

In the next study, we'll explore why Jesus is superior to angels and what that reveals about His authority and mission. Hebrews continues to unfold the unmatched greatness of Christ, calling us to deepen our faith and reliance on Him.

Fix your eyes on Jesus, and may His grace fill you with endurance and hope as you live out His supremacy in your life.

# **Born Again: A Radical Gospel Perspective**

The phrase "born again" has become synonymous with personal decisions, altar calls, and faith declarations in modern Christianity. Yet, John Crowder challenges this understanding, arguing that it has little to do with its biblical and theological roots.

Nicodemus, puzzled by Jesus' words, asked if one must re-enter their mother's womb to be born again. Similarly, many today misunderstand the concept, tying it to personal efforts. But according to the apostles, spiritual rebirth is neither our decision nor achievement—it is entirely the work of God.

#### Born of God, Not of Human Will

Scripture reveals that rebirth is solely God's work. John 1:13 asserts that we are born "not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." James 1:18 echoes this truth: "Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth."

Ephesians 1 paints the picture vividly: we are predestined, adopted as children, and made acceptable in the Beloved—all according to the good pleasure of His will. This rebirth, Crowder emphasizes, is not triggered by human faith or decision but is a divine act "from above" (anothen).

dialogue allows parents to model and share the gospel of grace and truth naturally in their everyday interactions.

Rather than taking a rigid "do this" or "don't do that" approach, spiritual conversations should flow from the understanding that we are all works in progress, growing by God's grace. When rooted in the gospel-centered life, these discussions become opportunities for parents to model patience, love, and the transformative power of grace to their children, reflecting God's own heart.

# Asking Open-Ended Questions: Grace-Filled Curiosity

Grace-filled questions give children the freedom to explore their faith and understand God's love on their own terms. These questions are not designed to elicit "correct" answers but to invite deeper reflection and growth. By asking thoughtful, anything without fear of judgment is essential. Embracing. (To be Continued)

If you have been blessed by this edition, visit our website for more:

www.supernaturallifeforum.co m

#### Faith: A Response, Not a Creator of Facts

Faith, Crowder argues, does not create salvation; it merely acknowledges it. Humanity's salvation is not dependent on the depth of one's belief, repentance, or faith decision. These are responses to the reality of Christ's finished work on the cross. The proof of salvation, Crowder asserts, is not our experience but the love of Christ demonstrated on Calvary.

As T.F. Torrance put it, rebirth was accomplished "two thousand years ago, when Jesus came out of the virgin womb and out of the virgin tomb." Humanity's regeneration was bound to Christ's incarnation, life, death, and resurrection.

#### **Union with Christ: The Foundation of Rebirth**

Rather than viewing the unconverted as outsiders, Crowder urges us to see them as estranged family, already reconciled in Christ but blind to their inclusion. Christ has united all humanity to Himself, illuminating the darkness from within (John 14:20). The call to faith is not a prerequisite for salvation but an awakening to the relationship Christ has already forged.

#### A Christ-Centered Understanding of Conversion

Crowder critiques the modern notion of "conversion," which centers on human emotions or decisions. Instead, he advocates for a Christological view, where conversion is rooted in Jesus' assumption of human nature.

Jesus embodied humanity's repentance, submission, and rebirth. He was baptized, not for Himself, but for us. His life and obedience fulfilled both sides of the New Covenant. Our new birth is our participation in His perfect work, not a result of our striving.

### The Cosmic Scope of Salvation

Crowder boldly asserts that the new birth is not an individual event but a cosmic reality. The entire cosmos was regenerated in Christ's death and resurrection (2 Corinthians 5:17-19). The Gospel is not a potential offer but a declaration of an accomplished reality.

# **Hope for All Humanity**

Though Crowder distances himself from universalism, he shares hope that all will awaken to faith, whether in this life or the next. This hope aligns with God's will that none perish but all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

#### The Good News of Union

Crowder calls for a return to the ancient message that united humanity with God through Christ. The Gospel declares that the world has been made new, filled with His glory.

For those intrigued or challenged by these perspectives, Crowder recommends his book *Cosmos Reborn*, offering a deeper dive into this transformative understanding of salvation.

"The outsiders have become insiders. Do you have eyes to see darkness, or can you behold the glory filling the whole earth?" – John Crowder