**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, August 1, 2020**

Good afternoon!

The first real job that I had was when I was 17 years old. Previously, I cut lawns, delivered newspapers before this but now I was able to land a position with a toy distributor! They assembled small gifts and toys and then packed them in boxes and delivered them to the different locations for distribution. Occasionally this company would even come up with their own ideas for kid’s toys that they would sell. Remember “Pet Rocks?” How I got this job however is important to note! If it weren’t for my friend Otto who had been working there for some time, I wouldn’t have gotten in. Because Otto was my good friend, when I showed up at the business to see about getting the job he said, hey Mike, it’s all good, just start working. About an hour later, Sammy the owner of the company walked in. When he saw me, he walked over to me and said, who are you and why are you here? Otto spoke up and vouched for me. Then Sammy paused and said, well because of Otto I will allow it, you’re in!

Gaining access to material blessings. like a new job, due to friends in high places happens!

But we have access to God and the spiritual blessings that follow because we have a friend in a high place whose name is Jesus! Listen to the words of the Hebrew writer and how he describes this in Hebrews 10:19-25.

• “Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 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. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:19-25

Special access is something to never take for granted but to always appreciate and be grateful for! When we lived in New Jersey some good friends gave Margie and me special tickets to a NY Yankees baseball game. These were extra special tickets with special access. We were cleared to park in the Yankee player parking lot, enter the stadium through a special entrance, ride the same elevator with the players and announcers to our special seats, and sit in the corporate box seats where we were given special treatment. We sat with celebrities, famous ballplayers while watching the game and eating “Yankee Franks.” That night I got Phil Rizzuto’s autograph and spoke with Don Drysdale, among others. Since the tickets were given to us, many there were looking at us and probably wondering, what were the two of us doing there. I was wanting to say, hey, I belong here; I have special friends in high places! This was a very special event and memory that I am grateful for. However, don’t forget, we have special access to God and eternal life because we have a friend in a high place. His name is Jesus! He is our great high priest! The result is that we can have a full assurance of our faith and place in glory! Guaranteed! Not just for one event, but for eternity! You see He who promised us access is faithful! The result should cause us to stimulate one another to love and good deeds!

When we get to heaven nobody will say, what are you doing here? You see, in heaven there are no elite, but only the elect! All because of our friend and Lord Jesus and the forgiving blood that He covers us in, God will say, you’re in! I grant you access! And the folks who we will be surrounded by in that day will be greater than any celebrity, professional baseball player or legend. They will be the saints of God who belong there as well! Not on their own accord, but because of the new and living way that God has provided in Jesus! The apostle Paul put it this way, “through Him we...have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household.” Ephesians 2:18-19.

Have a great weekend,

Mike