Hebrews 4:15-16

- 1. Our high priest (Jesus Christ) can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.
 - a. Infirmities: weaknesses in the body resulting from living in a sin-cursed world. Infirmities are not necessarily a result of our own sin.
 - b. Jesus Christ experienced Hunger (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:2) and thirst (John 19:28) and betrayal (Matt 26:56, Mark 14:50, Luke 22:57, Matt 26:48, Zech 13:6).
 - c. No human being can honestly say, "I know how you feel." But Jesus can.
 - i. Jesus can be sympathetic to our weakness as humans (Psa 103:14, Isa 42:3, Mt 12:20).
 - ii. You can tell Jesus things that you can never tell anybody else, concerning your weaknesses and failures.
 - iii. Jesus can minister to everyone who comes to Him because He knows what we're going through.
- 2. Jesus "was in all points tempted like as we are..."
 - a. He was not tempted the same in every detail, but in every point.
 - b. John 2:16 breaks down all temptations into three *points*:
 - i. The lust of the flesh.
 - 1. Jesus hungered and Satan tempted Him to turn stones into bread (Mt 4:3).
 - ii. The lust of the eyes.
 - 1. Satan tempted Jesus with all the kingdoms of the world (Mt 4:8-9).
 - iii. The pride of life.
 - 1. Satan tempted Jesus to cast Himself down from the temple and miraculously survive the fall (Mt 4:5-6).
- 3. "...yet without sin."
 - a. Jesus was tested in all points, but He did not sin.
 - b. Jesus was tested in all points, and to this very day (2,000 years later) He has never sinned.
 - i. We don't have to worry about affecting Him with the sins that we talk to Him about.
 - 1. When we bring our sins to a human, they will also be affected by it.
 - a. That's why we can't confess our sins one to another (as many new bible translations teach in James 5:16). Faults are not the same as sins.
 - 2. But we can cast all our cares on Jesus Christ (1 Peter 5:7), and we can come to Him when we're heavy laden (Matthew 11:28) and pour out our hearts to Him, and He can handle it.

- 4. We can approach the throne of God **boldly** to obtain grace and mercy (vs 16).
 - a. When you need Jesus the most, you can come to Him boldly, and He will hear you.
 - i. He is the "friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).
 - ii. "A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again" (Prov 24:16) because Jesus is there to help him up.
- 5. We approach "the throne of grace."
 - a. God demonstrated His grace toward me when I was a dirty lost sinner (Rom 5:8).
 - i. Why wouldn't He continue to extend His grace toward me now that I'm His child?
- 6. We obtain **mercy** at the throne of grace.
 - a. Grace: receiving what you don't deserve (i.e. forgiveness, love, peace, joy...).
 - b. Mercy: not receiving what you do deserve (i.e. everlasting punishment).
- 7. God's grace and mercy comes "in time of need."
 - a. God's help is never late. It's always "in time."
 - b. I don't have to wait until eternity to get help. God dispenses His help "in time." His help is available today.