

A Better Way
A Better Prayer
Hebrews 4.9-16

Hebrews is the book of the **Better Way**, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**

- Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **Our Better Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **Our Better Stand** – Don't Slip (2.1) Don't let the Word of God slip.
- **Our Better "So Great A Salvation"** (2.3)
- **Our Better Reconciliation** and the Defeat of the Devil (2.17)
- **Our Better Exhortation** (3) – Hear God's Voice
- **Our Better Rest** (4.1-11)
- **Our Better Word From God** – This King James Bible
- **Our Better Accountability** – Our God sees all

Today we discover that there is a **Better Prayer**.

Read Text

Prayer is often viewed a religious practice that allows one to voice his or her desires to God in hopes of receiving ones desires from God. Prayer is often very one sided, whereby the one praying does all of the talking and whereby God does all of the listening. In this prayer becomes an individual's process of lording it over God. The individual simply tells God what he wants and expects and then wonders why God hasn't responded to their requests.

The problem is that most people misunderstand prayer all together. Prayer in the Bible is simply a word that means "to communicate." It is the process whereby one communicates with God. **Communication is always two sided.** It is the process whereby two individuals talk with one another. Therefore, in prayer Christians must always allow themselves to hear from God as much as, or even more then they talk to God.

How to Pray A Better Prayer,

1. **In Person (vs 16)** - *Let us therefore come boldly **unto the throne of grace**, . . . – At The Throne – This requires,*

Isa 59.1

- **Salvation – The grace of God**

In reality most people pray. Unchurched people pray often. Those who many churched and religious people view as the worst of sinners will often pray. When people pray they expect that God is hearing their prayers.

*Isaiah 59:1–3 - Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But **your iniquities have separated between you and your God**, and your sins have hid his face from you, **that he will not hear.** ³For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.*

Isaiah provides two perspectives,

- **A Lost Persons Perspective** - The unredeemed has no access to the throne of God. The throne of God speaks of the presence of God. The iniquities of a lost person separates them from the presence of God.

What is their remedy? They must be Born-Again, Saved.

Until you receive the Purging of Hebrews chapter one, which is the cleansing and full pardon of your sins, which is provided at salvation, you have no access to God. You are separated from God.

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How To Pray A Better Prayer,

- 1 . Pray In Person - At The Throne – Requires,**
- Salvation
 - Seeking

- **For the Redeemed** – A Born-Again child of God that lives in presumptuous sin will also have no access to the presence of God. Their iniquities will separate them from God so that God will not hear their prayers.

The Grace of God provided through our Lord Jesus Christ will give you complete access to the Throne of God.

- **Seeking – At The Throne**

Matt 6.5

One must come seeking their Heavenly Father. While the word prayer in the Word of God means communication, specifically with God, this is no ordinary communication like you might have with your spouse, your children, your neighbor, or your co-worker. This is very special communication, this is seeking communication with Almighty-God, your Heavenly Father.

You must seek to come before the throne of Almighty God.

This is no mere showmanship.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

Matthew 6:5–6 - *And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen of men.** Verily I say unto you,*

They have their reward. ⁶ **But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.**

Many people will only pray if there is some other person there to hear them. They are praying to be heard of people. **When we pray we must seek to be heard of God**, and the best way to do this is in absolute solitude.

When you talk with God in solitude, there is no one else to hear you, but your Heavenly Father will hear you, and if you will get quiet then you may also hear from your Heavenly Father and that will be true communication through prayer.

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To come before the throne of God is to seek to really have a heart to heart talk with God. To come before the throne of God is to seek to hear what your Heavenly Father has to say to you. Yes you can and must proclaim your heart and mind to God, but it is far more important that you listen for your Heavenly Fathers response on the matters you bring to Him.

2. Pray With Passion - Boldly - Let us therefore come **boldly unto the throne of grace, . . . - What does it mean to be BOLD?** Does it mean,

- To be direct?
- To be persuasive?
- To be aggressively confident?
- To be determined?

James 5.16

What is it that robs the Children of God of their Boldness in prayer?

- Could it be the lack of power in prayer, the lack of answers to their prayers?
- Could it be the lack of the assurance that God hears their prayers?

The Word of God calls us to Come Boldly before our Heavenly Father.

To come Boldly implies Coming with Passion and Purpose. The Word of God says it this way,

*James 5:16–18 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.** ¹⁷Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

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Three things James records for us,

- **Effectual Fervent Prayer**

Effectual means able to produce a desired affect. Hence it is to pray with powerful purpose, fully persuaded of a coming result.

How can one know that God will answer their prayers? The only way to know such is to come before God’s throne and to hear the will of God from God.

Adrian Rogers used to say, “*The only prayer that gets to heaven is the prayer that starts in heaven.*”

To come boldly before God’s throne with the confidence of a result is to know the heart, mind, and will of God concerning the matter at hand. That means one must hear from heaven in order to know the mind, will, and way of one’s Heavenly Father.

Are you listening for God? Through His Word and through the Holy Spirit?

Fervent means to be effective or to prevail. This is to pray with the passion of knowing that God is going to take action.

One can only have this confidence when they have actually heard from their Heavenly Father in the matter.

Jer 29.11

- **Righteous Man** – A righteous man is again, first born again and striving diligently to live a right life in the sight of God. This person hates and fights against sin in their heart and life so that they are not separated for their Heavenly Father as Isaiah stated.
- **Availeth Much** – The Effectual Fervent Christian will avail in prayer.

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The Word of God records,

Jeremiah 29:11–14 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. ¹²Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. ¹³And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. ¹⁴And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, . . .

You will be able to come Boldly to God’s throne, into the presence of God, talking with God and hearing from God, when you are seeking God with all of your heart. You will then have a blessed and life changing conversation with your Heavenly Father.

This is what it means to boldly approach the Throne of God. It is to be passionately seeking God and His presence. God wants you to be in His presence.

3. **Pray With Power - Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. - Seeking Mercy Finding Grace and Help from your Heavenly Father.**

So how about it Christian, what do you really think,

- **Does your Heavenly Father want to help you?**

- **When you pray will are you truly in harmony with God? Have you heard from God so you know the heart, mind, and will of God?**
- **Do you have the confidence to pray knowing your Heavenly Father is going to answer? Because you know what God is going to do.**

*James 5:16–18 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.** ¹⁷**Elias** was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.*

Elijah was a righteous man that prayed powerful prayers, not because Elijah commanded God, but because Elijah was in touch with God, and knew what God was going to do.

You will find Mercy, Grace, and Help at the throne of God when you are willing to acknowledge that your Heavenly Father is God, and you are willing to surrender to what God is doing. Far to many people want to demand that God do what they demand rather than surrendering to what God is doing in His divine will and plan.

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Sept 12, 2021

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