

Hebrews 10:19-22 (ESV)

Thoughts about prayer...

<i>I should pray more</i>	<i>I don't understand prayer</i>	<i>I'm embarrassed to pray out loud when others are around</i>
<i>I feel guilty that I don't pray more</i>	<i>God never answered my prayers, so I just stopped praying</i>	<i>When I hear others pray, I wish I could pray like they do</i>
<i>I just don't have much desire to pray</i>	<i>Praying seems foolish to me</i>	<i>I feel intimidated by people who can pray better than I do</i>
<i>I feel condemned and guilty when I try to pray</i>	<i>I feel drawn to pray, but I don't know what to say</i>	<i>I got turned off to prayer by something that happened in the past</i>

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence **draw near** to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**GOD'S PEOPLE ENJOY ACCESS TO GOD
NOT BECAUSE OF ANYTHING WE HAVE DONE FOR GOD,
BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR GOD
ON OUR BEHALF!**

We Can Approach God In Prayer Only On The Basis Of Christ's Finished Priestly Work For Us

The Gospel of Christ, once believed, doesn't just save us from the penalty of our sin, but actually shreds the partition that prevented us from entering God's presence, thus making a way for us to commune directly with God.

PRAYER IS A PURCHASED PRIVILEGE!!

LESSONS FROM THE LAW AND THE SACRIFICES

- 1) *I am holy, more holy than you could ever dream or imagine. I am full of righteous wrath against sin and I am rightly separated from any and all sin and sinners.*
- 2) *Sin against Me must be sufficiently atoned for, according to My instructions or My holy wrath will consume you.*
- 3) *The sins of My people are only atoned for through the shedding of innocent blood.*
- 4) *No one may approach or draw near to Me without blood. To do so is to be consumed by My holiness.*
- 5) *You need a representative to do this for you, a mediator who will present the blood on your behalf.*

DRAWING NEAR

"Let us draw near" - God not only permits but INVITES His people to draw near to Him.

"by the new and living way that He opened for us" - Access to the presence of God was not achieved by our own doing, but was provided for us.

"by the blood of Jesus" - Access to God is a costly privilege, purchased for us with Christ's blood. He became for us our Sacrificial Lamb and our Great High Priest.

"We have confidence to enter ... in full assurance of faith" - The fact that our newfound access to God is based on Jesus' performance for us and not our performance for God has the effect of filling our hearts with confidence as we approach God ... if we believe it.

"with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience" - Jesus' work removed the internal barrier that caused us to hesitate to draw near to a holy God.

BIBLE READING PLAN

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Romans 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thu.: Romans 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mon.: Romans 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fri.: Romans 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tue.: Romans 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sat.: Romans 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wed.: Romans 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun.: Romans 9 |