



Sermon Notes: January 3, 2016

# Gaining An Audience With God

1 of 6 from the teaching series "Prayer that will Change Your World"  
Hebrews 4:14-16 • Pastor Paul Bradford

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## Hebrews 4:14-16

*<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

### 1) We are commanded to approach God's throne of grace with confidence!

We are afraid to approach God because of...

- **Shame.** We have committed sin, and we want to run and hide from God. With all the sin in our lives, we don't see why God would answer our prayers.
- **Rejection.** We don't feel important enough to God for him to answer our prayers.
- **Condemnation.** We are under God's discipline. We've messed up so much that we feel God is probably punishing us.

### 2) We have confidence because Jesus, our High Priest, has prepared the way!

We can approach God with confidence because Jesus has provided...

- **Forgiveness** (not shame). *Hebrews 10:22.* Through the blood of Jesus, you are pure. Not because you haven't sinned, but because Jesus has cleansed you.
- **Reconciliation** (not rejection). *Romans 5:10, 8:31-32; Jeremiah 29:11.* Our sin and rebellion had made us enemies of God. But Jesus has washed away the sin and reconciled us to God. God is for us, not against us; he has plans to prosper us, not harm us.
- **Sonship** (not fear). *Romans 8:14-17; 8:15.* You are not approaching a despot or stranger, you are approaching you dad. You already are in his favor, God's beloved son. When he looks at you, he sees Jesus in you.

### 3) We come with confidence to receive mercy and grace to help us in our need.

- We come to receive mercy when we need it. You may think you can't come because you're not worthy. The text says that's the reason we do come, because we need mercy!
- We come to receive grace to help us when we need it. You may think you shouldn't come because you only do so when you need help. The text says we should come to him for help, with confidence!
- The very reasons we think we shouldn't come are the very reasons God tells us to come!

## OUR RESPONSE

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.