



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

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.

Hebrews 4:16

Best. Prayer. Ever. – Bold prayer

We're so wimpy in prayer sometimes. Do you know what I mean? It's like we're sniveling before some high potentate whom we dare not approach, "And maybe, would you please, if you can get around to it, if you're feeling in a good mood today, could you do this for me." We're so wimpy in prayer, and I'm trying to figure out why.

I know there is a part of us that must approach God in humility and reverence. After all, we have sinned against him and do not deserve to be called his children. We do not always know what is best even if we think that we do. And he is God while we are not. So, it's good and right to approach him with humility and reverence.

But timid? Wimpy? That's not how Jacob prayed when he wrestled with God. He dared to say, "I won't let go unless you bless me" (cf. Genesis 32:26). That's not how Moses prayed when God wanted to wipe out his people. He dared to tell God, "You can't do that" (cf. Exodus 32:11-14).

There's nothing wimpy about the Lord's Prayer either. Take a look through the petitions. Think carefully about what we're actually saying, "Make your will happen, make your kingdom come, give us, forgive us, deliver us." In these petitions we're actually telling God what we want him to do. Pretty bold, isn't it? Hardly wimpy. Hardly timid. Those are bold prayers.

That's the way God wants us to pray. He wants us to approach him with confidence, boldness, and openness. He wants us to just come and lay our problems at his feet. He wants us to come and tell him with a boldness mixed with the humility of Abraham who told God, "I know I have no right to ask you to spare this city, but because you've invited me to pray and you promise to be merciful, I'm going to ask. Please spare the city for the sake of the faithful" (cf. Genesis 18:22-33).

So don't be wimpy and timid in your prayers. Your Father has forgiven all your sins and opened his throne room to you. Your Father loves you and wants to hear from you.

Prayer: Father, make us bold to pray. You have promised mighty things to us. You have promised forgiveness and daily bread. You have promised that your will is good and that you will deliver us from evil. Teach us to pray with confidence and boldness because you will always be gracious and merciful to us. Amen.