

PRAYER LESSON 148

Pray With Confidence

When Stephen was being stoned to death, he had a vision of heaven and he says in Acts 7:56 **"Look, I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."** When I pray I hold this image before me of the Father on his throne in heaven and the Son, Jesus, standing at his right hand. I picture God's throne room and I picture myself entering that room in prayer. Sometimes I wonder, what right do I have to do that.

We humans have a problem, we are tainted with sin and God does not allow sin or sinners into his presence. Oh, but God dealt with that problem by sending his son to die for my sins. Since I put my trust in that fact, my sins are forgiven and I can enter that throne room, as I am now free of sin.

Furthermore, Jesus said in Matthew 11:28 **"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** Looks like we've been invited to come, he is expecting us. One of my pet-peeves is when people who have accepted an invitation fail to show up. We have been invited, we are expected, dare we be no-shows.

The writer to the Hebrews includes a number of assurances relative to our coming into the presence of God. He writes in Hebrews 4:16 that because of what Christ has done, **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.** God is holy, but so are we, now that our sins are gone, so we can approach him with confidence.

Then the writer adds in Hebrews 7:24-25, that Jesus is not like other so-called mediators, **because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.** We come to God in confidence, because we have one of our own interceding for us. Jesus knows what it is to be one of us, so he can represent us to the Father.

The writer summarizes our reasons for confidence in Hebrews 10:19-22. He says, **since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.**

We are left without excuse. Our Father invites us and expects us and we have Jesus representing us to the Father, so come.