

— Day 15 —

# PRAY LIKE YOU BELONG **THERE**



## Scriptures & Overview

### Hebrews 4:16

*“Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.”*

Many believers approach prayer as though they are interrupting God or asking for too much. Scripture teaches the opposite. Through Christ, we have been invited into the Father’s presence. Boldness in prayer is not arrogance; it is confidence in the access Jesus purchased for us.

### Luke 18:1–8

*Jesus told them a parable about the need to pray always and not give up.*

In the parable of the persistent widow, Jesus teaches perseverance in prayer. Persistence is not about convincing a reluctant God to act. It is about remaining engaged with God long enough for faith, endurance, and alignment with His purposes to be formed within us.

### Daniel 10:12–13

*“Don’t be afraid, Daniel,” he said to me, “for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers. But the prince of*

*the kingdom of Persia opposed me for twenty-one days.”*

Daniel’s experience reminds us that prayer often involves spiritual realities we cannot see. God heard Daniel’s prayer immediately, yet opposition delayed the angelic messenger sent with the answer. It took Michael the Archangel to fight through. Persistent prayer is sometimes part of spiritual warfare, not because God is withholding His response, but because His people are participating in His victory.

## **Devotional**

Many Christians pray like we’re apologizing for bothering God. We approach God timidly, carefully, almost as if we’re afraid of asking for too much. We lower our expectations before we even begin. We pray vague prayers, hesitant prayers, prayers that leave plenty of room for disappointment. Yet Jesus never taught His followers to pray that way.

**He taught us to ask, seek, and knock. He taught us to approach the Father with confidence and persist when answers seemed delayed.**

Somewhere along the way, many Christians picked up the idea that persistent prayer means repeatedly attempting to convince God to do something He doesn’t really want to do. As though heaven has a quota system, and if we pray enough times, God will reluctantly release the answer.

Scripture paints a completely different picture. Daniel prayed for understanding, and God responded immediately. The messenger told him, “From the first day your words were heard.” The answer was not delayed because God was ignoring Daniel. It was delayed because spiritual opposition stood in the way.

That passage reminds us that prayer is often participating in a battle we cannot see. There are moments when persistence matters because our prayers become part of God’s work in the world. We continue praying

because He has invited us into partnership with Him.

But persistence does something else as well. It changes us. Anyone who has prayed through a difficult season has learned this lesson. We begin by bringing God our request. We tell Him exactly what we want Him to do. We explain the situation. We present our arguments.

Then we stay. We keep praying. We keep listening.

And somewhere in the process, something begins to shift. Sometimes the circumstances change, but more often, we change.

Prayer was never intended to be merely a shopping list of requests. Prayer is communion. Prayer is receiving the heart of God for a situation. It is staying in His presence long enough for our desires, fears, frustrations, and expectations to come into alignment with His purposes.

Some of the most effective prayers I have ever prayed were not my ideas at all. They were prayers that emerged after sitting quietly with the Lord and asking, “Father, what is on Your heart here?”

When we discover His heart and begin praying in agreement with what He intends to do, confidence rises. We are no longer throwing requests into the air, hoping one of them lands. We are partnering with the will of God.

This is one reason boldness in prayer is not arrogance. Boldness comes from relationship. A child confident they have their father’s heart does not hesitate to approach. A child who knows they belong walks through the door without hesitation. Hebrews tells us to come boldly before the throne of grace because Christ has already secured our access.

So, pray specifically, expectantly, and persistently. Bring your requests to God with confidence, knowing that He welcomes you as His child.

Remain in His presence long enough to hear His side of the conversation. Ask Him what is on His heart about the situation. Allow Him to reveal things you cannot see, adjust your perspective where needed, align your desires with His purposes, and commission your hands and feet to participate. Often, the greatest work of prayer is not what happens around us but what happens within us as we participate in God's perspective.

## Reflection Questions

1. Do you tend to approach prayer with confidence or hesitation? What does that reveal about how you see God?
2. Is there a situation where God may be inviting you to persist in prayer rather than give up?
3. When was the last time you spent time listening for God's heart about a situation instead of only presenting your requests?

## Prayer

Father, thank You that through Christ I have been welcomed into Your presence. Forgive me for approaching You as though I am a burden or an interruption. Teach me to pray with confidence, persistence, and faith. Help me remain steadfast when answers seem delayed and remind me that You hear me from the moment I call. Train my heart to seek Your will, not merely my own desires. Teach me to listen for Your voice, discern Your heart, and partner with what You are doing in the world. Let my prayers become an expression of trust, communion, and cooperation with Your purposes. Amen.

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## SOUND OFF WITH YOUR COMMENT