

# Prayer *A Holy Occupation*

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Oswald Chambers

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Prayer: A Holy Occupation

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*A Holy Occupation* \_\_\_\_\_

*Requires Boldness*



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## *A Holy Occupation*

IN PRAYER HAVE we learned the wonderful power of that phrase “boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus”? It means that we can talk to God as Jesus Christ did, but only through the right of His Atonement. We must never allow the idea that because we have been obedient, because our need is great, because we long for it, therefore God will hear us. There is only one way into the holiest, and that is by the blood of Jesus.<sup>OBH</sup>

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### *Reflection Questions*

*When was the last time I tried to see an issue from God's perspective rather than ask Him to see it from mine?*

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SPIRITUAL CERTAINTY IN prayer is God's certainty, not a side-eddy of sanctimoniousness.<sup>PI</sup>

## *Requires Boldness*

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THE ONLY PLATFORM from which the holiest saint on earth is ever heard is the platform mentioned in Hebrews 10:19, we have “boldness to enter the Holiest by the Blood of Jesus.” There is no other way. When we come into the presence of God, the human side of our praying makes us realize that if we are ever going to approach God and pray acceptably, it must be by the “piece of God” in us which He has given us.<sup>IV<sup>A</sup></sup>

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### *Reflection Questions*

*How can I be sure I am  
praying acceptably?*

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IT IS BECAUSE our Lord Jesus Christ went through the depths of agony to the last ebb in the Garden of Gethsemane, because He went through Calvary, that we can boldly enter the holy place.<sup>IV<sup>A</sup></sup>

THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY things which present a puzzle. For example, the presentation of the basis of redemption, how am I going to understand whether the redemption covers everything, or only partially covers? Never by reasoning, only by prayer; and as sure as God is God you will get the answer and know of a certainty.<sup>BFB</sup>

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*Reflection Questions*

*What prayer of mine do I consider still  
“unanswered”? If indeed it has been  
answered without my awareness, how  
should I change that prayer?*

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JESUS NEVER MENTIONED unanswered prayer, He had the boundless certainty that prayer is always answered.<sup>MUH</sup>

## *Requires Boldness*

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THE CURE OF uncertainty is a new note of intercessory prayer. The reason for perplexity in meeting the actual occurrences of life is because we are losing face-to-face contact with Jesus Christ through His Cross. We must get back to the place where we are concerned only about facing our own inner souls with Jesus Christ Who searches us right down to the inmost recesses.<sup>PH</sup>

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### *Reflection Questions*

*What am I trying to hide from Jesus?*

*How might my life be different if I admitted to myself and to Him that it is there and needs His attention? Will I confess today or continue to procrastinate?*

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ASKING IN PRAYER is at once the test of three things—simplicity, stupidity, and certainty of God.<sup>PI</sup>



JESUS SAYS THERE are times when our heavenly Father will appear as if He were a most unnatural father, callous and indifferent. But remember, says Jesus, I have told you—“everyone who asks receives.” When we get into spiritual confusion the usual way out is to say we have made a blunder, and we go back instead of forward. “I don’t know what to do; I am up against a stone wall.” Will you “hang in” to what Jesus said? If there is a shadow on the face of God the Father just now, remain confident that ultimately He will give His clear issue as Jesus said. It is not a question of black or white or right or wrong, of being in communion or out of communion; but a question of God taking us by a way which in the meantime we do not understand.<sup>PH</sup>

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*Reflection Questions*

*What is one issue about which God seems indifferent to me? Is my response one of faith or doubt?*

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## *Requires Boldness*

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WE ARE BASED on the platform of reality in prayer by the Atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not our earnestness that brings us into touch with God, not our devotedness, nor our times of prayer, but our Lord Jesus Christ's vitalizing death; and our times of prayer are evidences of reaction on the reality of redemption, so we have confidence and boldness of access into the Holiest. What an unspeakable joy it is to know that we each have the right of approach to God in confidence, that the place of the Ark is our place, "therefore, brethren, having boldness." What an awe and what a wonder of privilege, "*to enter the Holiest,*" in the perfectness of the atonement "*by the blood of Jesus.*" CD Vol. 2

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### *Reflection Questions*

*What will I do today as an expression of gratitude and praise for the awesome privilege of prayer?*

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LAUNCH OUT IN reckless belief that the redemption is complete, and then bother no more about yourself, but begin to do as Jesus Christ said—pray for the friend who comes to you at midnight, pray for the saints, pray for all people. Pray on the realization that you are only perfect in Christ Jesus, not on this plea—“O Lord, I have done my best, please hear me.”<sup>MUH</sup>

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*Reflection Questions*  
*What would “reckless belief”*  
*cause me to do today?*

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SO MANY OF us limit our praying because we are not reckless in our confidence in God. In the eyes of those who do not know God, it is madness to trust Him, but when we pray in the Holy Spirit we begin to realize the resources of God, that He is our perfect heavenly Father, and we are His children.<sup>IYA</sup>

## *Requires Boldness*

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NEVER SAY GOD has done what He has not done because it sounds better to say it; never pretend to have an answer when you have not. Jesus said, “Everyone who asks receives”; we say—“I have asked but I have not received.” It is because we ask in spiritual confusion. Jesus said to James and John: “You do not know what you ask”; they were brought into fellowship with Jesus Christ’s cup and baptism, but not in the way they expected.<sup>PH</sup>

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### *Reflection Questions*

*Am I in a state of spiritual confusion?*

*What am I really asking God for  
when I pray?*

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THE ONLY WAY to get into the relationship of “asking” is to get into the relationship of absolute reliance on the Lord Jesus. “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him.”<sup>DI</sup>

PAUL SAYS, “PRAYING always . . . for all the saints and for me.” Do we remember to pray on the ground of our Lord’s orders for all who minister in His name? If the apostle Paul earnestly solicited prayer on his behalf that “I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,” surely it behooves us to remember that this is the key our Lord puts into our hands for all Christian work; not prayer because we are helpless, but prayer because God is almighty.<sup>1YA</sup>

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*Reflection Questions*

*What church leader should I stop  
grumbling about and start praying for?*

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WE CAN GET to God as Creator apart from Jesus Christ, but never to God as our Father except through Him. Let us receive this inspired idea of our Lord’s into our inmost willing heart, believe it, and pray in the confidence of it.<sup>CD Vol. 2</sup>

## *Requires Boldness*

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IF YOU HAVE a gift of prayer, may God wither it up until you learn how to get your prayers inspired by God the Holy Spirit. Do we rely on God, or on our own earnestness when we pray? God is never impressed by our earnestness; we are not heard because we are in earnest, but on the ground of redemption only. We have “boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus” and by no other way.<sup>SSM</sup>

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### *Reflection Questions*

*How much of my praying is for myself  
and how much is for God? How might I  
change my prayers to make them  
less self-centered?*

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OUR IMPORTUNITY MUST be intercessory and the whole power of our intercession lies in the certainty that prayer will be answered.<sup>CD Vol. 2</sup>

THEREFORE, BROTHERS, HAVING *boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus*. Beware of imagining that intercession means bringing our personal sympathies into the presence of God and demanding that He do what we ask. Our approach to God is due entirely to the vicarious identification of our Lord with sin.<sup>MUH</sup>

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*Reflection Questions*

*Do my prayers sound like an employee asking for a raise? How should my relationship with God be different from that of an employee?*

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INTELLECT AND PRAYER are united in the saint in the consciousness of Christ which we share, consequently the consciousness of self-realization is a perversion and a snare.<sup>CD Vol. 2</sup>