

## Day 4

“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” (Hebrews 4:16, CSB).

When I was younger, I got into all of my mom’s makeup. I was thrilled; swiping on her lipstick, covering my entire face with eyeshadow, and admiring my work in the mirror. At that moment, I thought two things at once: I felt absolutely stunning, and I realized very clearly that what I had done was wrong. There was no hiding it. Her makeup was a mess, and the evidence was all over my face. I could have gone to my mom and confessed what I had done; instead, I ran upstairs, shut my bedroom door, and hid in the far corner of my closet, ashamed to even step into her presence.

Often, we relate to the Lord in the same way. We know we have directly disobeyed what God has asked of us, and instead of repenting and going to Him, we pull away and try to hide. Shame convinces us that God’s presence is something to avoid rather than a place of mercy. We begin to believe that our failure disqualifies us from being near Him.

Scripture tells a different story. In Hebrews, we are reminded that it is by the blood of Jesus Christ that we can enter the throne of grace with boldness. Jesus is our great High Priest because He was also our greatest sacrifice. Because of Him, access to God’s presence is no longer based on our performance, but on His finished work.

The invitation is not to stay away until we feel worthy, but to come to Him precisely when we feel weak, sinful, or overwhelmed. Because of Christ, we do not approach God as fearful outsiders, but as forgiven children. When we sin, we don’t have to withdraw from prayer. We are invited to step closer, fully aware that He loves us, forgives us, and meets us there.

When you are aware of sin or failure, how does it affect your willingness to pray?

What would it look like for you to intentionally draw near to the throne of grace instead of pulling away this week?

*Lord, thank You that through Jesus I am forgiven and welcomed into Your presence with confidence, so help me stop hiding in shame and instead draw near to You.*