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The Art of Prayer

12. Boldness (Chapter Nine)

This chapter teaches that effective prayer requires boldness, and that our boldness comes from Jesus and our standing as God's children. It covers two kinds of boldness: boldness to act on the Spirit's prompting during intercession, and boldness to approach God's throne without guilt or sense of unworthiness.

Key takeaways

- You don't need to pray for faith (it comes by hearing God's Word), but you can and should pray for boldness.
- The early church prayed for boldness and God answered—the place shook, they were filled with the Spirit, and they spoke boldly.
- When the Spirit lays a burden to pray or to go to someone, act on it; you may not know who or why, but the Holy Spirit does.
- Two stories illustrate this: Charlie Hollandsworth being led to stop a man from jumping off a bridge, and the author's prompting to pray for his backslidden brother, who then survived a gasoline explosion unhurt.

- The biggest thing defeating believers in prayer is sin-consciousness—coming to God feeling weak and unworthy, which talks them out of faith into condemnation.
- Because God blotted out our sins and won't remember them, we trade sin-consciousness for Son-consciousness and can enter the throne room boldly as covenant children and joint-heirs with Christ.

Passages worth keeping

> *"We lose sin-consciousness — and now we have Son-consciousness!"*

Sums up the shift from guilt to confident access that makes bold prayer possible.

How it connects

The boldness to act (intercession) and the boldness to approach (the throne) are the same confidence: both rest on who we are in Christ, not on our own worthiness.

Scripture referenced

- **Hebrews 4:16** -- Come boldly to the throne of grace—the chapter's theme verse.
- **Ephesians 3:11,12** -- Our boldness and access come through faith in Christ.

- **Acts 4:29-31** -- The church prays for boldness and God answers with power.
- **Romans 10:17** -- Faith comes by hearing—so we feed faith rather than pray for it.
- **Ephesians 6:18-20** -- Even Paul asked others to pray he would speak boldly.
- **Isaiah 43:25,26** -- God blots out our sins for His own sake, grounding our confidence before Him.