Spurgeon, Charles
The Practice of Powerful and Effective Prayer

7. Boldness at the Throne (Hebrews 4:16)

A sermon on Hebrews 4:16 by Charles Spurgeon, urging Christians to pray with confidence. Spurgeon walks through four parts of the verse: what the 'throne of grace' is, who invites us to it, what it means to come 'boldly,' and why we can be bold.

Key takeaways

- Prayer is essential to the whole Christian life, not just its start. A believer's strength, joy, growth, and usefulness all depend on it.
- The 'throne of grace' is where the old veil is torn away. Through Christ's blood, every believer may come right into God's presence, not stay 'in the outer court.'
- It is a throne — so come with awe and reverence to a King. But it is a throne of GRACE — so come without fear, expecting to receive what you don't deserve.
- The invitation ('let us come') comes from Paul the ex-persecutor, from the whole Church, and ultimately from the Holy Spirit, who prays with us.
- 'Boldly' does not mean proudly. Abraham prayed boldly yet called himself 'dust and ashes.' Boldness plus deep humility.

- Come boldly means: constantly (any time), unreservedly (big and small requests), freely (plain words, no fancy forms), hopefully (God really answers), and perseveringly (keep asking).
- God does not need polished words — like a father understanding a small child's broken speech, He reads the heart's desire.
- Reasons for boldness: God invited us; it is grace, not merit; we are His children and heirs; the Spirit shapes our prayers; the promises are sure; He already gave His Son.
- The best reason of all: our High Priest, Jesus, was tempted and suffered as we do, sympathizes fully, and presents our prayers marked with His atoning blood.

Passages worth keeping

> *"The greatest boldness in prayer is perfectly consistent with the lowest self-humiliation."*

Defines what 'boldly' means — confidence and humility together, not arrogance.

> *"Thou art coming to a King, / Large petitions with thee bring; / For his grace and power are such, / None can ever ask too much."*

Newton's lines capture the whole sermon: ask largely of a generous King.

How it connects

The torn veil (Hebrews) fulfills the Day of Atonement mercy-seat: where only the high priest once stood yearly, every believer now stands daily in Christ.

Scripture referenced

- **Hebrews 4:16** -- The text of the whole sermon — come boldly to the throne of grace.
- **Hebrews 4:15** -- The 'therefore': our High Priest sympathizes with our weakness, so we can be bold.
- **Hebrews 9:12** -- Christ entered the holy place by His own blood, opening the way for us.
- **Romans 8:26-27** -- The Spirit intercedes for us when we don't know how to pray.
- **Romans 8:32** -- God gave His Son, so He will freely give us all things.
- **James 1:6-7** -- Ask in faith, not wavering — supports coming 'hopefully.'