

THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

Hebrews 4:14-16

Big Idea: When we consider the privilege of prayer we will be motivated to pray.

Prayer is a privilege . . .

1. Because Jesus is our great high priest (4:14).

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 3:1

1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,

a. His priesthood is greater than Aarons (vv. 14a; Heb. 7:23–28).

14 Since then we have a great high priest

(1) Because Jesus was resurrected (7:23-24).

23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

Hebrews 13:20–21

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

(2) Because Jesus was sinless (7:25-26).

25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

(3) Because Jesus' sacrifice was once for all (7:27).

27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

- Because Jesus was sinless, he didn't have to offer sacrifices for himself, but instead could offer himself as a sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:14

14F or by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

(4) Because Jesus' ministry is forever (7:28).

28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

b. He has passed through the heavens (v. 14a).

we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,

Hebrews 8:1–2

1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

c. He is the Son of God (v. 14b)

Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 1:3

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

2. Because Jesus is able to sympathize with us (4:15; Heb. 2:17-18).

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

a. He sympathizes with our weaknesses (v. 15a).

15a For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

> Hebrews 2:17–18 says that Jesus was made like us . . .

(1) So He could become a merciful and faithful high priest (v. 17a).

17ab Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God,

(2) So He could make atonement for sins (v. 17b).

17b to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

(3) So He could help those who are being tempted (v. 18).

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

b. He sympathizes with our temptations (v. 15b).

15b but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

3. Because Jesus has made a way for us to draw near to God (v. 16).

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

a. He has made a way for us to draw near to the throne of grace (v. 16a)

16a Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

(1) Draw near to the throne of grace.

Ephesians 3:11–12

11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

(2) Draw near with confidence.

Hebrews 10:19–22

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,
21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Ephesians 3:11–12

11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

b. He gives mercy and grace to help in time of need (v. 16b).

16b that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 8:12

12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”