

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

YOU CAN APPROACH GOD'S THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

"In the name of Jesus." "For Jesus' sake." You pray your prayers to your heavenly Father in the name of Jesus or with the words for Jesus' sake. You do this not because someone told you to do so. Rather, you take your prayers to Your Father in Jesus' name because He is your advocate. (1 John 2:1) As your High Priest He sits at your heavenly Father's right hand interceding, pleading, praying for you.

Approaching your heavenly Father in the name of Jesus, through praying in His name, you can be confident your Father hears your prayers, knows your needs, and is disposed to answer them in accord with His will and for your good. After all, Jesus said, "And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it." (John 14:13-14) In Jesus you have one who speaks to Him in your behalf, especially that He will forgive your sins. (1 John 2:1)

When it comes to your sins, St. Paul writes, "Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for (you.)" You can be confident that Jesus intervenes with His Father for your forgiveness, knowing "He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them." (Hebrews 7:25) Jesus points to the scars on His hands and side as He pleads with His Father to hear your confession of sins and request for forgiveness for His sake.

With Jesus sitting at the right hand of God as Your High Priest you can be sure He is pleading your case. Jesus never loses sight of His mission to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 10:10) He knows the heart of His Father, "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:22) Nothing in all this world can separate you from the love of God which is yours in Christ Jesus your Lord. (see Romans 8:39)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, increase my faith that I through it approach my heavenly Father with confidence through Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. In His name. Amen.

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will the commence; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence;

Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense; Jesus is my confidence!
(LSB 490)