

**Message for February 17, 2019
At the Throne of Grace**

Hebrews 4:14-16 English Standard Version (ESV)

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. 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. 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.

Senior pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in Brooklyn, NY, Jim Cymbala describes The Throne of Grace like this:

The throne of grace is a spiritual place. It's not a location geographically that you can visit, but the promises concerning it are so immense that they're almost beyond belief. God has so much to say about the throne of grace and what will happen in our lives to change them for the better when we approach it in faith. All kinds of wonderful things happen at the throne of grace. ~ JIM CYMBALA

The Bible encourages, even urges us to come boldly to the throne of grace.

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

Here is how one person makes the distinction between Mercy and Grace:

Grace is when God gives us what we don't deserve. Mercy is when God doesn't give us what we do deserve.

**Listen to how Max Lucado defines “Mercy” and “Grace”.
Mercy is the decision of God not to punish us. But grace is the
decision of God to save and bless us.**

Max Lucado

When we come to the Throne of Grace we want to...

receive (God’s) mercy and find (God’s) grace for our lives.

Do we dare approach that throne? And yet Scripture says we can.

**When we come to the Throne of Grace we want to check our
attitude, three things to be aware of... We want to:**

- 1) Recognize our grave need for God's grace through Christ**
- 2) Acknowledge what Christ has done for us.**
- 3) Ask, and you will receive**

There seems to be an instinct in people to pray in times of trouble.

When we pray, we are to pray in faith.

Hebrews 11:6 Good News Translation (GNT)

**⁶No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God
must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek him.**

**There’s only one kind of prayer that God answers: the prayer of
faith.**

**I think we see so little in our lives because we expect so little and
we’re not asking in faith.**

In Mathew chapter 9 on His way to raise a girl from the dead, Jesus is touched by a woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years, the doctors couldn't help her. But when she touches Jesus, she's instantly healed.

**Now look at what Jesus says to the woman:
"your faith has made you well", (Matthew 9:22)**

A little later Jesus is approached by two blind men, here is what they are saying; Have mercy on us.

**Matthew 9:29 New Living Translation (NLT)
29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your faith, it will happen."**

There's only one kind of prayer that God answers: the prayer of faith. Prayer is critical in the life of the Christian.

- Corrie Ten Boom a survivor of the holocaust writes:

"When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles. When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy."

"What's one practical thing we could do right now to improve our prayer life?"

"Be humble..."

In Luke 18 Jesus tells the story about a Pharisee and a Tax Collector, were both praying in the temple? The Pharisee starts naming his own accolades, and then the Tax Collector, not even looking up, asks for mercy.

Come to the Throne of Grace, seek the Grace-giver, ask for His mercy.

Remember who you are and to whom you belong.

AMEN