

## Ask Boldly

Psalm 22:1-5, 9-11

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To pray boldly is to wrestle with God to fulfil His word. It is asking God to intervene and act according to His character. The Psalmist called upon God with such authority, it sounded like a command to God to act. When we ask boldly, it eclipses our complaints. It takes faith to ask boldly amidst the pain and sorrow.

vv3-4 – The word ‘yet’ is a bridge from complaint to bold request. Throughout the Psalm, the Psalmist oscillates from complaining to trusting in God. This is the nature of lamenting; it is real to the raw emotions of the soul. While the sorrow still remained, the asking was strong and full of faith (vv11-20). Each request was a bold call for God to act (vv19-21). The Psalms of lament invite us to pray boldly when we are bruised badly.

What is bold asking?

Bold asking is not:

- #1 The volume of your voice
- #2 The beauty of your words
- #3 The posture of your body
- #4 The stubbornness of your heart

You pray boldly when you are:

### 1) Honest

Lamenting is very messy. We do not have all our thoughts together and are unable to articulate clearly the raw emotions we harbor in our hearts. We do not need to edit our prayers to be prim and proper when we bring them to God.

Honest prayers are messy. They are pain, doubts and questions all mixed together with faith, trust and confidence in God. Edited prayers shut down the human heart. God is the One who sees *all* and *everything* (Heb. 4:13). This same God invites us to His throne to relate to Him as a Father.

### 2) Persistent

Prayer is often described as wrestling with God and striving (Col. 4:12, Rom. 15:30). The

biblical understanding of prayer is not calm and passive but, in dark times, a wrestling with God and a striving in prayer. While Abraham (Gen. 18), Moses (Ex. 33), Job and Habakkuk were bold in their asking, their wrestling with God and persistence in prayer rested wholly on God’s sovereignty. Their heart’s posture was one of subtle acceptance of God’s wisdom and timing. In lamenting and bold asking, we need to hold a delicate balance between God’s sovereignty and submission to Him, and our persistence and boldness in prayer.

### 3) Patient

Throughout the book of Job, Job was questioning and lamenting. Through the humiliation and suffering he had gone through, he never once turned away from God. Job knew he was being tested by God (Job 23:10), and he remained patient and faithful to God. Asking boldly is staying faithful to God, all those around us and our calling in life. Bold asking is staying through the battle in deep quiet trust in God.

### 4) Courageous

In courageous bold asking, we take steps that risk our reputation, comfort and security. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that God was with them, both in life and death (Dan. 3:17-18). That gave them enormous courage. At the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus lamented for the cup of wrath to be taken away. While it was not, he stayed faithful to God’s sovereignty. On the cross, though forsaken by God, He did not forsake the Lord. He remained faithful despite God not coming to deliver Him. That is incredible courage.

Jesus lost His relationship with God on the cross so that we can now call upon God as our Father. Now, we can come boldly as children to our heavenly Father to receive

mercy and grace. In lamenting, don't stop asking boldly!