

Day 01 – *January 13*

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Devotional Title: Confidence in God's Care

Key Verse: John 11:41-42

“So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.’ – John 11:41-42 (NIV)

One of the most powerful moments in Jesus' ministry was when He raised Lazarus from the dead, and at the heart of that miracle was a simple yet profound prayer. In John 11:41-42, we see a unique glimpse into the relationship between Jesus and His Father—a relationship grounded in trust and unwavering confidence. Before calling Lazarus out of the tomb, Jesus didn't begin His prayer with a plea for God to act. Instead, He started with thanksgiving, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.” Jesus was already certain that His Father had heard Him before He even uttered the prayer. This shows us that prayer is not about convincing God to listen, but about aligning ourselves with the truth that God is always attentive to the cries of His children.

How often do we pray with that same confidence? Life's struggles can sometimes make us feel like we're not being heard or that God is distant. Yet, Jesus' prayer at Lazarus' tomb reminds us that God is constantly aware of our needs and that we can approach Him with bold assurance.

The second part of Jesus' prayer reveals that this confidence in God's care wasn't just for His own benefit; it was meant to strengthen the faith of those around Him. Jesus spoke aloud

so that others could witness the connection between His prayer and the Father's power, so that they might believe. This teaches us that our prayers have the potential not only to bring us into closer communion with God but also to be a testimony of faith for others.

In our own prayer lives, we can reflect on the care and consistency of God. Whether we're facing difficulties, waiting on answers, or simply offering thanks, we can trust that God hears us. Our prayers, like Jesus', can be rooted in thanksgiving and in confidence, knowing that God is always at work—even when we can't yet see the outcome.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

How does Jesus' prayer of thanksgiving before the miracle of Lazarus challenge the way you approach God in prayer?

Are there areas in your life where you need to trust more in God's constant care and presence?

How can your prayers inspire and strengthen the faith of those around you?

PRAYER:

Father, thank You that You always hear me. Help me to pray with the confidence that You are ever-present and attentive to my needs. Strengthen my faith in Your care, and let my prayers be a testimony to those around me of Your love and power. Use my prayers to draw me closer to Your heart and to lead others to trust in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.