Prayer Challenge: Week 4

Congratulations on making it to the fourth and final week of the *Before Amen* Prayer Challenge! Could I be so bold as to issue you one more challenge? Keep going.

And as you continue, remember the name of One who hears your prayers. *Jesus*.

Jesus has unimpeachable authority. "He sustains everything by the mighty power of his command" (Heb. 1:3 NLT). "God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9 NIV).

The Roman government tried to intimidate him. False religion tried to silence him. The devil tried to kill him. All failed. Even "death was no match for him" (Acts 2:24 MSG).

Jesus "disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross" (Col. 2:15 NLT). He was not kidding when he declared, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matt. 28:18 NIV). Jesus is the command center of the galaxies. "Two sparrows cost only a penny, but not even one of them can die without your Father's knowing it" (Matt. 10:29 NCV). He occupies the Oval Office. He called a coin out of the mouth of a fish. He stopped the waves with a word. He spoke, and a tree withered. He spoke again, and a basket became a banquet. Economy. Meteorology. Botany. Food supply. "All things have been handed over to me by my Father" (Matt. 11:27 NRSV).

When we pray in the name of Jesus, we come to God on the basis of Jesus' accomplishment. "Since we have a great high priest [Jesus] over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (Heb. 10:21–22 HCSB). As our high priest, Jesus offers our prayers to God. His prayers are always heard.

So pray! Since God works, prayer works. Since God is good, prayer is good. Since you matter to God, your prayers matter in heaven. You're never without hope, because you're never without prayer. And on the occasions you can't find the words to say, pull these out of your pocket:

Father,
　　　you are good.
　　　　　I need help. Heal me and forgive me.
　　　　　　They need help.
　　　　　　　Thank you.
　　　　　　　　In Jesus' name, amen.