

“PRAYERS THAT GOD WILL NOT HEAR”
1 John 5:14-17

Introduction:

- 1. Have you ever prayed, but felt God did not hear your prayers?**
- 2. God always answers the prayers of His faithful children.**
 - a. He says “yes” if it is best for us.**
 - b. He says “no” if it is not in our best interest.**
 - c. He may say, “not now, but later,” if the time isn’t right.**
- 3. God has set boundaries which must be respected if we expect Him to hear our prayers.**
- 4. It has been said that “nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer, except that which lies beyond the will of God.”**
 - a. God will not hear a prayer which goes contrary to His established order.**
 - b. He will not cause the sun to rise in the west or reverse gravity.**
- 5. We must respect God’s boundaries for our prayers to be heard.**

Discussion:

- I. GOD DOES NOT HEAR THOSE WHO DO NOT ASK.**
 - A. He knows our needs before we ask, but wants us to ask.**

“... your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8).
 - B. God has promised to hear if we ask.**

“Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find.

Knock, and it will be opened to you, for everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Matthew 7:7,8).

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

II. GOD DOES NOT HEAR THOSE WHO DOUBT.

A. Many pray while doubting that God will answer.

- 1. During a time of drought, farmers gathered at a local church to pray for rain; none brought an umbrella.**
- 2. The Lord’s brother admonished: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:5-8).**

B. Many of us are like the father who asked Jesus to heal his epileptic son who was demon possessed (Mark 9:14-29).

- 1. Jesus said: “If you can believe; all things are possible to him who believes.”**
- 2. The father cried out with tears: “Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!”**

III. GOD DOES NOT HEAR THOSE WHO REJECT HIS WILL.

A. The Old Testament consistently teaches this truth.

“One who turns away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer is an abomination” (Proverbs 28:9).

**“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear”
(Psalm 66:18).**

B. The New Testament also teaches God does not hear the prayers of sinners.

“Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him” (John 9:31).

“The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (1 Peter 3:12).

C. “One cannot sow wild oats and pray for a crop failure.”

IV. GOD DOES NOT HEAR THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS.

A. Jesus spoke a parable to “some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others” (Luke 18).

- 1. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.**
- 2. The Pharisee recommended his goodness to God.**
- 3. The tax collector humbly prayed: “God, be merciful to me for I am a sinner.”**
- 4. Jesus said the tax collector went down to his house justified rather than the Pharisee.**

B. Jesus said: “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward” (Matthew 6:5).

V. GOD DOES NOT HEAR THE SELFISH.

**A. A man prayed: “O Lord, bless me and my wife; my son,
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John and his wife; us four, and no more.”

B. James warned that selfish prayers would be unanswered:

“You ask, and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:3).

VI. GOD DOES NOT HEAR THOSE WHO WILL NOT FORGIVE.

A. We must forgive in order to be forgiven (Matt. 6:12,14,15).

B. A woman told a preacher she could never forgive a certain person who had wronged her; the preacher replied: “Then you had better hope you will never need forgiveness.”

C. We must forgive even as God forgave us (Ephesians 4:32).

VII. GOD DOES NOT HEAR THE UNGRATEFUL.

A. We teach our children to say “thank you” for what we give them, but fail to thank God for answered prayers.

B. The Bible teaches us to express our thanks.

1. The Gentiles did not acknowledge God, nor were thankful (Romans 1:21).

2. Jesus gave thanks for food (Matthew 15:36).

3. Paul thanked God for his brethren (Philippians 1:3).

4. “In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Conclusion:

1. God does not hear a sinner’s prayer (John 9:31).

2. Saul spent three days in prayer, but was told: “And now, why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 9:1-18; 22:16).

