

Prayers - continued

It may be that God is not hearing my prayers because I am not following the prayer rules that God has laid down in his word. I am not believing like I am supposed to (James 1:5-7; 5:14), I am not asking like I am supposed to (James 4:2), I do not have the right motives like I am supposed to (James 4:3), and I am not persisting like I am supposed to (James 5:17-18).

5. God may not be listening because he is not your father

It may be that God is not hearing my prayers because God is not actually my father. Some people, like the Jews of Jesus' day, believe God is their father when he is not (John 8:44). I must have God as my Father in order for him to hear my prayers as my Father (Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:15). Am I born again of water and Spirit into God's family (John 3:3,5; Titus 3:5)?

Answered Prayer

When we pray we must pray according to God's will, be in a right relationship with others, remove any sin from our life, follow God's prayer rules, and we must have God as our father. Then, and only then, will God hear our prayers. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- The longer you carry a grudge, the heavier it becomes.
- When you do not have the things you want, you learn to appreciate the things you have.
- Always put off what you shouldn't do at all.
- Everyone loves a cheerful giver as long as they are on the receiving end of the giving.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Why Doesn't God Hear My Prayers?

*And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood
- Isaiah 1:15 -*

God and Prayer

It is common knowledge that God wants us to pray to him and he has promised that he (under certain conditions) will hear us. When I say “hear” us, I mean “hear” us in the sense of answer our prayer and give us what we want. Of course God literally “hears” every prayer, but he “hears” and answers only those who meet his conditions of prayer. If you have ever wondered why God doesn't hear your prayers, you may need to take another look at God's conditions of acceptable prayer.

We are told by Jesus to pray to God and ask him for things and we will receive them (Matthew 7:7-8). We are exhorted by Paul to make our requests made known to God in prayer (Philippians 4:6). So, why doesn't God hear my prayer? Let us consider five areas of prayer relative to this question

Why God Doesn't Hear

1. God may give a different answer than you expect

It may be that God is not hearing my prayers because he is choosing to give me a different answer than what I want. Moses got a different answer when he prayed about going into Canaan land (Deuteronomy 3:26). Job got a different answer when he prayed about his suffering



(Job 30:20). Paul got a different answer when he prayed about his thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:8).

God's plans for us may be different than what we want (Acts 16:6-10; Rom. 1:9-13). If our prayer is not the “Lord's will”, then we are going to get a different answer than what we want (Matthew 26:39; James 4:15; 1 John 5:14-15).

2. Your prayers may be hindered

It may be that God is not hearing my prayers because I am in an improper relationship with others. We are told in God's word that things like pride (2 Chronicles 33:10-13), neglecting the needy (Proverbs 21:13), wrongdoing (Ezekiel 8:17-18; Matthew 5:23-24; 6:14-15; 18:34-35; 1 John 4:20), and spousal mistreatment (1 Peter 3:7) will keep our prayers from being heard.

3. Sin may have closed God's ears

It may be that God is not hearing my prayers because I have an unrepentant sin which is closing God's ears (Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 15:29; Isaiah 1:15; 59:1-2,20; Jeremiah 11:9-11; 14:9-11; Micah 3:4; John 9:31; 1 Peter 3:12).

When mankind does not hear God's word, then God doesn't hear man's word (1 Samuel 8:18; Proverbs 1:24-31; 28:9; Zechariah 7:13). The question we need to ask ourselves is this: Does God's word abide in my soul (John 15:7; 1 John 3:22)? If not, then we are not going to get the answer we want from God.

4. We may not be following God's prayer rules