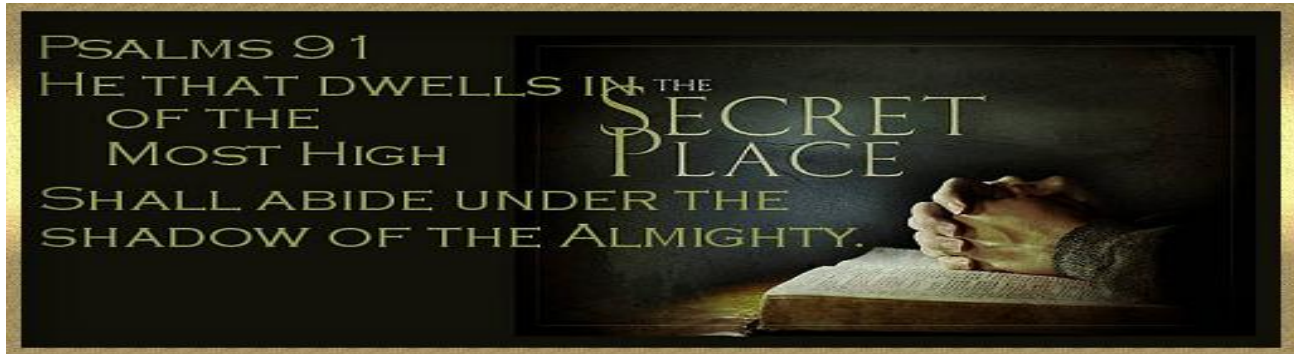


# Connect Your Prayers



(The digital versions of these bible studies have clickable blue hyperlinks for expanded context)

I had a surprising thought about a sermon I heard about the electricity being out and that made me think about how our prayers may go unresponded. I thought of prayers like an analogy to a doorbell. If you have ever tried to summon a person with a doorbell when the power is out, you will find out real quick it won't work. You can press the button until your finger turns purple, but nobody inside will know you are pressing it. Doorbells need power. They have to be connected. Some people have no connection to God and are pressing a dead doorbell. I think it's time to inventory our connection and troubleshoot any shorts we may have. You will never hear me give you tickling of the ear info. I seek language History and context of the integrity of the text of scripture. Scripture is truth and the truth can be painful. Do not expect me to hold back. We need to get real.

## 1. God Doesn't Hear Us When We Have Unconfessed Sin

Sin separates us from God. It's that simple. It's like slamming the door on God. The only thing that will open that door again is repentance. This is why it is so very important to live a life consisting of constant inventory and repentance for sins. That way, He can forgive us and cleanse us. Then He will hear our prayers. We must take the biblical definition of sin and study it. We analyze that definition and acknowledge what it is and then repent and turn from that description and definition which is love that draws close to God in the relationship He desires. Anytime something happens to me, the first thing I do is ask God to reveal any trespasses according to **1 John 3:4** that I may have done. As long as I do not have a hardened heart it will be soft enough to hear His voice and heal what is broken. Do not harden your heart to the instructions of God because they are love and never change.

- **James 5:16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
- **1 Peter 3:12** For the **eyes of the Lord are on the righteous**, and **his ears are open to their prayer**. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."
- **Isaiah 59:2** But **your iniquities have separated** between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that **he will not hear**.
- **Micah 3:4** Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but **he will not hear** them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.
- **Psalms 66:18-19** If I regard **iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:** (19) But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.
- **Proverbs 28:9** **He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**

- **1 John 3:22** And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.
- **1 John 3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

## 2. God Doesn't Hear Us When We ([go through the motions](#)) Worship Idols ([pine tree](#)) or Put Other Things Before God (on purpose or not)

**Matthew 15:3** But he [*Jesus*] answered and said unto them, *Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*



God wants to be the #1 love of our life and He is a **very Jealous God**.

The Old Testament is full of idolatry as a major sin. It can be hard to relate to people who melt earrings to make golden calves. [But modern idols are "alive" and well.](#) When we put **anything** other than God on the throne of our hearts or in our space, it causes a barrier, even if it's an [inherited tradition that seems innocent](#). Don't even act it out or learn those ways. No matter how much lipstick you apply to **traditions that are NOT in the bible** or not commanded to do, the safe play... is to **stick with only authorized observances mentioned in scripture**. Did I say **jealous** God.. yup, **very jealous**. [Don't even learn something that may look pagan](#) or use likeness pictures or idols. "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen"

- **Exodus 34:14** (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),
- **Exodus 20:4a** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above...
- **Ezekiel 14:7-8** For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the s prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: (8) And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.
- **Galatians 5:4** Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.
- **Jeremiah 10:3-4** For the customs of the people are vain: for one [cutteth a tree out of the forest](#), the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. (4) **They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.**

## 3. God Doesn't Hear Us When There Is Unforgiveness

We must forgive to be forgiven. It is simply not okay for a Christian to have anything against anyone. We must choose to forgive and give those hard feelings to God for His disposal. We must live at peace with others as

much as it is within our power to do so. The parable of the unforgiving servant is a great illustration. It is ridiculous for us not to forgive others since God has forgiven us so much.

- **Mark 11:25** And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.
- **Matthew 5:23-24** Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; (24) Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

## 4. God Does Not Hear Us When We Lack Charity

The Bible says, "Give to those who ask you." Although there are certainly exceptions, if we know that someone has a need and we have the ability to meet that need, it is up to us to help. After all, we are but stewards. Everything we have has been given to us. We must do good and share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased **Hebrews 13:15-16** By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (16) **But to do** good and to communicate **forget not**: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

- **Proverbs 21:13** Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

## 5. God Does Not Hear Us When We Ask Incorrectly

When we ask for things for our own selfish pleasures, he will not hear us. Also, when we want things that are not in the will of God, He also doesn't listen. When we make vain repetitions with words after words that never touch our hearts, He may not listen. But when we ask according to His will, with our hearts, and in His name, He will hear, and we will receive.

- **James 4:3** Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.
- **Matthew 6:7** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.
- **1 John 5:14** And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
- **John 16:23-24** And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. (24) Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

## 6. God Does Not Hear Us When We Ask in Unbelief

God won't answer our prayers when we don't believe He will do so. He hears us when we pray in belief that He is both listening and able to answer our prayers.



- **James 1:6-8** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (8) A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.
- **Matthew 21:22** And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

- **Mark 11:24** Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

## 7. God Does Not Hear Us When We Are Disobedient

I have heard other people say “Do what you know God wants you to do. If you’re not sure, do what you think He wants you to do.” But when we know what God wants and deny giving it to Him for our own selfish motives, we are in **rebellion to God**, and that **is sin**. We must **submit to God** always. Even if what He is asking seems hard. Even when it puts us outside our comfort zone. Learn His ways and you will draw close.

- **Zechariah 7:11-13** But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. (12) Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. (13) Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:
- **Proverbs 10:24** The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

## 8. God Does Not Hear Us When There Is Family Discord

Problems in a marriage can affect God’s willingness to hear our prayers. We must honor our partners so that our prayers may, in turn, be honored by God.

- **1 Peter 3:7** Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
- **Ephesians 5:22-24** Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. (24) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

## 9. God Doesn’t Hear Us When We Don’t... Ring the Bell

Finally, a working doorbell is only helpful if someone pushes the button. When we try to use worldly means to get the things we think we need and want, we can cause ourselves more harm than good. Instead, we should humble ourselves and ask God for His help.

- **James 4:2** Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.



# God DOES Hear Us When We Are Right With Him



# God Hears

God does listen to prayers from His children who are right with Him and have repented. He knows us, and we have a relationship with Him that opens the lines of communication. We believe in Him, trust Him, and spend our lives trying to please Him. The Bible is full of promises that God will hear us when we are in a right relationship with Him. **Seek His ways... seek to know what God loves and what pleases Him! The blue words of Torah were lived out in the red words as an example on how to walk out our life. Red words of Jesus.** Whatever Jesus did, **(WWJD) I want to do.**

- **John 15:7** If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- **John 9:31** Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.
- **Psalms 91:14-15** Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. (15) He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.
- **Psalms 145:18-20** The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. (19) He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. (20) The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.
- **Jeremiah 29:11-12** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (12) Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.
- **Psalms 34:17** The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
- **Psalms 37:4** Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

## What pleases God?

A person that loves Him with all His heart and seeks to repent and turn away from sin that separates us from Him. Obedience is the fruit of your love for God... just saying the words "I love God/Jesus" isn't worth anything if it has no fruit. **James 2:14** What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? **James 2:17** Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

God hears a repentant heart, but if you return to the same definition of **what the bible calls sin** (1John 3:4), you will **re-separate** yourself from God until you repent and **turn from that definition**. If God can forgive David, He can forgive you for all your sins but David turned away from his sin after he repented **and did not return to it**. Follow Jesus, **"go and sin NO MORE."** Do not "cry wolf", do not make your repentance have no value and do what you say. Calling on God's name to ask for forgiveness and then not reversing the definition of sin is one example of using God's name to call on Him with no value or using it in VAIN. **James 1:23-25** For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a **doer**, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: (24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. (25) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a **doer** of the work[*law*], this man shall be blessed[*Deuteronomy 28*] in his deed.

**1 John 3:6** Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

**Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

**Hebrews 10:26** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,



### **We Simply Must Be Connected to Be Heard**

Like a doorbell that must have power, our prayers must have a connection to God in order to be heard. He doesn't hear us when we are separated by things that displease Him, but when we are in good standing with God, He promises to hear us and grant those petitions that are in His will and good pleasure. Repentance is the connection repair tool but do not willfully cut the line on purpose. Love is the key and it is not hard to do.

**Back to all my bible studies here:** [www.bit.ly/allbiblestudies](http://www.bit.ly/allbiblestudies)