

If one will take the time to pray to God is that a guarantee, or even a suggestion that their prayer will be heard and answered? I don't know about you, but I have heard people whose life style is, what appears to me to be a carefree abandonment to rebellion against God, I have heard these same people say to another, "I will pray for you", or, "I will remember you in my prayers", or, "Our prayers are with you." Will YeHoVah', the creator of heaven and earth, will He humble Himself to hear and answer the prayer of the man or woman who does not fear Him and who is carefree about their sinful lifestyle? Join with us and let's look at what the Bible may have to say concerning this issue.

Humble Obedience Before God Promotes Effectiveness In Prayer

Hey America:

The question of whether YeHoVah', the creator of heaven and earth hears my prayer and will answer me, or not, that question is a very important question to me. Why is that so? I guess the long and short of it is that I realize that without His power I can do nothing of eternal benefit. I mean, I cannot save a soul. I cannot cause conviction to come into a human heart. I cannot turn the light on for any soul of man to be able to perceive the truth, let alone cause that soul to walk in God's light. Without His power, nothing of eternal consequence can be done. I am persuaded that is exactly what the prophet Zechariah himself



realized when he said, **"...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD (YeHoVah') of hosts"** (Zech. 4:6 b KJV). Without His power our lives will be tainted if not ruled by sin, confusion, lack of luster spiritually speaking, and apathetic in respect to the things of the kingdom and the real meaning of life. And our ministries will be, sad to say represented in the words, **"Empty hands and empty heads."** In many ways, these words accurately describe much of the modern American Church. We do not pray as we ought. According to my observation, we are very weak on the praying end of things

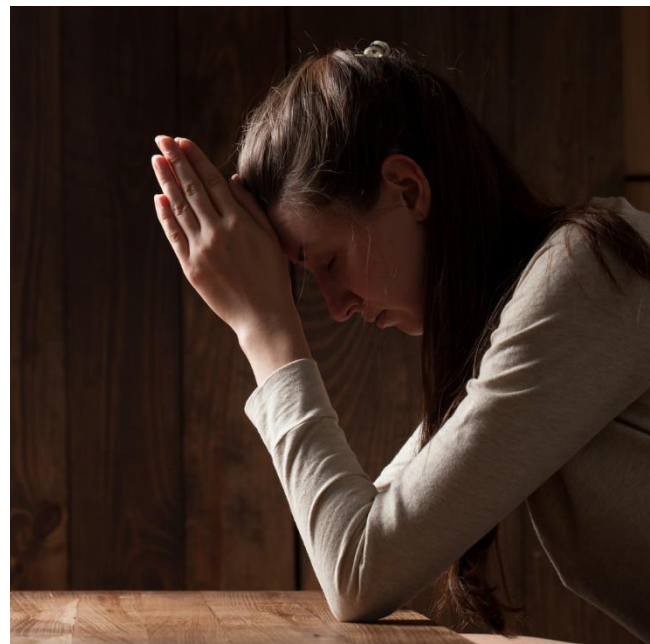
But, even if we do pray, do our prayers get the attention of heaven? Do our prayers cause the Eternal One to sit up and take notice of our person, and our petition? These questions should be very important to the Christian, it should only be a non-believer who walks in confusion and rebellion, that is negative or indifferent to this question. I ask you as you read these words, are you confident that your prayers get the attention of heaven? Do you really believe that the Mighty One pays attention to what you say to Him in prayer?

In this series on how to insure effectualness in prayer we will discuss a number of key issues that either promote effectualness in prayer, or hinder it. Today's topic is that of humble obedience. The general list includes:

- Humble obedience before God
- Innocence in respect to wrong doing (He was heard, in that he feared)
- Simple faith
- Proper treatment of a spouse
- Proper treatment of a brother or sister in the faith
- Coupled with fasting
- Earnestness
- Persistence

Things that hinder effectualness in prayer:

- Unconfessed and un-repent sin
- Un-forgiveness
- Self-centered prayer, or asking amiss
- Not believing in prayer, and the lack of faith to give yourself to prayer
- Not praying, which is to say not surrendering to the grace of God that draws men to pray
- Not praying in Yeshua's name, that is not praying as Yeshua would (not praying His truth)
- Lack of earnestness
- Offences toward a spouse



Here is one of my very cherished Scriptures, and suppose it is so, in that it so vividly describes the heart of God, and what type of personality that

He has respect for: ***"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones"*** (Isa. 57: 15 KJV). Let us take this verse at face value. Who does the Eternal One dwell with? He dwells with that soul that is humble and contrite, and promises to revive that one.

How about this verse?

For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD (YeHoVah') but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. (Is. 66:2 KJV). Taking this verse at face value, who is the one whom YeHoVah' will turn and look at, the one who gets YeHoVah's attention? Again, it is the soul of man who is of a humble and contrite heart, AND

who fears God to the end that he/she obeys Him in all things. This is the type person that gets God's attention when he or she prays.

And this verse?

The LORD (YeHoVah') **is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit** (Ps. 34:18 KJV). Again, the Scripture puts it forth that the soul of man that clothes him or herself in contriteness, that soul is heard of God when they cry out for help and deliverance.

Here is still another

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise (Ps. 51:17 KJV). Once again it is revealed that the heart of God relates to the soul of man that clothes itself in humility. Did not our Lord Yeshua exhibit such a disposition? For He testified of Himself using these words, **"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls** (Ps. 11:29 KJV). If the author of our salvation was meek and lowly of heart, does it not add up that we who profess Him ought also to cloth ourselves in humble obedience? And, was not Messiah's prayer ever heard before the Father? I believe it was, and it is evident that Messiah believed His prayers were always heard in that He said, **I know that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me"** (John 11:42 ESV). Why were the prayers of Yeshua always heard by the Father? I suggest this verse offers a great deal of the reasoning: **Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and**

tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared (Hebrews 5:17 KJV).



Now, here is an example of YeHoVah' turning a deaf ear to the disobedient.

Behold, the LORD's (YeHoVah') **hand is not shortened, that it cannot**

save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear (Is 59:1-2 KJV). I cannot speak for you, you'll have to do that yourself, but as for me these words are incredibly important. Why so? One reason, if not numerous others. I need my prayers heard by the Majesty on High, for to **live outside of His blessing and power is to waste all my days.** I just cannot abide that. Therefore, to pay attention to His

word in order to turn from sin (*which is the transgression of His law –1 John 4:3*), and to do what He has commanded is vital to me, and I believe ought to be for every Christian.

Here is another that testifies to the reality that God is pure, and will pay no attention to worship that is in disobedience:

Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD (YeHoVah') of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand (Mal. 1:10 ESV). Beloved, let us from our hearts take heed to the reality that our God is holy and will not wink or abide with ungodliness. Let us in humility and contriteness of heart turn from every wickedness, let us turn from our self-will. Let us turn from every tradition and philosophy of men that is contrary to His law so that our prayers might be heard on high, and that hearing, He might visit our lives and our people with the outpouring of His presence. Amen

An American Watchman,
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Subject Section: Prayer