



**Today's Sermons**  
 Morning: Healthy Christianity  
 Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	35
Sunday AM Worship	43
Sunday PM Worship	29
Wed. Bible Study	n/a
Offering	\$1514

## Things God Says His Children Can Do

- Fall from grace – Gal.5:1-4,13
- Be led away with error – 2 Pet.3:17
- Err from the truth – James 5:19-20
- Weak brother may perish – 1 Cor.8:11
- Fall into condemnation – James 5:12
- Be moved away from the hope – Col.1:21-23
- Deny the Lord who bought them – 2 Pet.2:1
- Depart from the living God – Heb.3:12
- Can be a castaway – or disqualified for the prize – 1 Cor.9:27
- Become accursed children – 2 Pet.2:14

Satan says "Not So"

Read the Bible for Yourself!

Does this sound anything like "Once-saved-always-saved?"



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**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
 Bible Study:... 10:00am  
 AM Worship...11:00am  
 PM Worship:...6:00pm  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday  
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program  
 Sunday:.....7:30am  
 "Back to the Bible"  
 AM 580 WSKS  
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
 Warm & Cordial  
 Welcome  
 To All Our  
 Visitors!**

### The Wicked and Prayer of the Good

by Ron Thomas

In Psalm 36, the psalmist reflects on the thinking and doing of one pursuing a life without God. One who lives without God is living as an atheist; that is, he live as if there is no God to whom one will give an account. He also flatters himself when confronted with his sinful behavior with perverse talk and mischievous plans.

On the other hand, God's glory encourages the thoughtful saint to put emphasis on Him, and not on human fallibility. God is merciful and firm in His judgments. Those who rely on Him find that He is also the preserver of life; a man will find his life preserved when he finds happiness in God's wisdom. In truth he can't help but to be satisfied and happy!

Loneliness is a miserable experience! Though there may be times when one insists on being alone, loneliness is more than just being alone; it is the feeling of emptiness and failure. God's saint, however, is never alone; he seeks God's peace (comfort), presence, and prosperity (favor). Those who stand opposed to God's saint, God gives protection, and when prayer is offered it is answered.

## DOES GOD HEAR ALL PRAYERS?

Roger D. Campbell

God communicates the thoughts and desires of His mind (that is, His will) to you and me through His word, the Bible. The way that we, as humans, communicate or speak the message of our mind to God is through what the Bible calls prayer. In both the Old Testament, as well as the New, we often read about prayer. The truth is, it is only through the teaching of the Bible that we can know the Lord's will concerning prayer. Thus, for any question about prayer, we must turn to the word of God and see what it says. Doesn't that make sense to you?

Does the God of heaven hear the prayers of humans? If you mean, "Does God know when people are praying to Him," then the answer is "yes." God knows all that is taking place on the earth at all times. He knows our every thought, every action, and every word spoken, including our prayers. How can we be sure about this? Because the Bible says, "God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things" (1 John 3:20). All the affairs of mankind are "naked and opened unto the eyes" of the Lord (Heb. 4:13). So, yes, God knows when humans are praying.

Does the God of heaven hear prayers that are offered to Him in different languages at the same time? Because He is the "Almighty God" (Gen. 17:1), there is nothing that is too hard for Him (Gen. 18:14). He understands all languages in which humans speak. And, yes, He can handle all the prayers that might be coming His way all at the same time, regardless of the language!

Should we conclude, though, that every prayer is acceptable to the Lord? To say that He can hear and understand when people speak to Him is one thing. To say that every prayer is acceptable to Him, well, that is another matter entirely. In Proverbs 28:9 it is written, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." This verse makes it clear that if a person refuses to heed or obey the message of God's law, then he should not expect the Lord to receive his prayer. Why? Because God counts it as an abomination when men refuse to obey Him, and all the praying in the world cannot change that. Prayer cannot take the place of obedience. The Lord rejects the prayer or cry of a disobedient person.

What does the New Testament say? In 1 Peter 3:12 we read, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers..." According to this verse, which prayers does the Lord receive? The prayers of "the righteous." A righteous person is one who does righteousness (1 John 3:7). Since all of God's commands are righteousness (Psalm 119:172), then a righteous person is one who keeps the commandments of the Lord. The Lord promises to receive the prayers of such a person, but not the prayers of the unrighteousness.

One final consideration. What about praying for salvation? Never in the Bible do we read that the Lord or any of His inspired spokesmen told a person that had never been saved something like this: "To be saved from your past sins, you need to pray to God, and He will forgive you." Such a notion is just not in the Bible! It is true that there are New Testament passages in which we read that people were told to pray in order to receive forgiveness, but when we closely examine the contexts of those verses, what do we find? They were addressed or spoken to those who were already Christians and had committed sin after being saved. Thus, as Christians or children of God, in order to get back into the right relationship with God, what they needed to do was pray. Simon, who had already believed and been baptized, was told to pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:13,21-23). We also read, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Again, however, this was not spoken to non-Christians, but to those that were already God's children (compare 1 John 2:12).

Does God want men to pray? The Bible says He does. But does He accept all prayers? Not according to the Bible. Let us all search the Scriptures and accept the instruction that we find therein.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- February 28 – Song Service After Evening Worship
- March 6 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- March 13 – Preach & Eat & 1:30 Afternoon Worship Service
- April 10-14 – Spring Gospel Meeting with Tracy Dugger
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell
- Wireless Internet Password: 94615548