

PRAYERS NOT HEARD

Somehow many Christians have been deceived by believing God hears all the prayers of Christians and will respond favorably. Unfortunately, this is far from the truth. When we violate Biblical principle, we can place ourselves in a position that our prayer is not answered (or even heard). Read Matthew 7:2 for instance:

Matthew 7:2

“For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.”

An example of this is the person who is asking the Lord for mercy. If that person hasn't been merciful (measured mercy) to others, how can he expect the Lord to measure mercy to him?

In 1 Peter 3:7, the Lord indicates a husband hinders his prayers by not treating his wife correctly (honoring her, for example). In Matthew 6:14-15, the Lord says that if we don't forgive, we are not forgiven. Therefore, our prayers of confession, in essence, fall on deaf ears.

Elsewhere, in Isaiah 1, the Lord says he won't listen to the prayers of those in Sodom, even though they have made elaborate sacrifices trying to entreat God. Why? It was because of their sin and the fact their hands were covered with blood.

Isaiah 1:13-16

“Bring your worthless offerings no longer, incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies-- I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.

I hate your new moon {festivals} and your appointed feasts, they have become a burden to me. I am weary of bearing {them.}

So when you spread out your hands {in prayer,} I will hide My eyes from you, yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood.

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil,”

One of the most well known verses having to do with prayer says that God will hear us when we humble ourselves and turn from our sin.

2 Chronicles 7:14

“and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”