



## *Chalmette Church of Christ*

*January 11th, 2015*

### **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.

### Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

P R M A N O I S R E M M I N S H A  
R I G H T E O U S N E S S J L L N  
O V N T L N A E D O G F O B M A L  
I E V N O E N B H P I H S R O W Y  
B R R F A O G N I D N E C S E D E  
N S G A T C E D G T A B L O N E B  
A O N S U T L B H Y E D A E R B E  
D V F E A I S E M L E R Y W A O R  
R N D O V T B N O I T A T P M E T  
O W J E R A A V U F A S T I N G V  
J O D E P T E N N Y T I C Y L O H  
T D H T S D Y H T S S E L N I S A  
W T I T S U P N A M R O M C C D E  
A S H O L Y S P I R I T E P E O D  
T A N E T H K I N G D O M S L V O  
E C U T O Y R G N U H A I S S E M  
R F T H E M O U F O R T Y D A Y S  
T H O F W I L D E R N E S S G O D

ANGELS  
BAPTISM  
BELOVED SON  
BREAD  
CAST DOWN  
DESCENDING  
DEVIL  
DOVE  
FASTING  
FORTY DAYS  
FORTY NIGHTS  
HEAVENS

HIGH MOUNTAIN  
HOLY CITY  
HOLY SPIRIT  
HUNGRY  
IMMERSION  
JESUS  
JOHN THE BAPTIST  
JORDAN  
KINGDOMS  
LAMB OF GOD  
MESSIAH  
PINNACLE OF TEMPLE

RIGHTEOUSNESS  
RIVER  
SATAN  
SINLESS  
SON OF GOD  
STONES  
TEMPTATION  
VOICE  
WATER  
WILDERNESS  
WORSHIP

## News & Notes

- There will be a picture re-take day today following services for our picture board in the foyer.
- Our Third Sunday Singing and Fellowship Meal will be on January 18th. Bring a dish and a friend!
  - Please keep Alice Riley, Margo Rodney, and Malcolm Vazquez in your prayers at this time as they are each battling different illnesses.
- Our pantry is running low and we need canned goods of any kind. Remember no cornmeal, flour or things of that nature please.

### January Birthdays & Anniversaries

28-John Early

29th-J.V. Russell



# Prayer List



**Alice Riley  
Clifford Markum  
Sherry Towle  
Margo Rodney  
Ella Gillard  
Krisztian Montague  
Addrean Jenkins  
Gloria Smiles  
Joel James  
Ryker Amaya  
Gary Huettmann**

**\*All of our brethren scattered across  
the United States & our troops in  
Iraq**



**Chalmette Church of Christ  
200 De La Ronde  
Chalmette, LA 70043  
504-279-9438**

Services of The Church  
Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am

AM Worship 10:00 am

PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

#### Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

#### Evangelist

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

[gospelpr@cox.net](mailto:gospelpr@cox.net)

#### Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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