

**Our God is a prayer-hearing God**

- I. We mustn't miss the important qualification and caveat here.
  - A. This is a blessing enjoyed by *the righteous*, by those who know God in a saving way through faith in Jesus Christ, cf. 1Pet 1.3-5.
    - 1. It's because their *persons* are accepted by God in Christ (cf. Eph 1.6, KJV) that their *prayers* are acceptable in His ears.
    - 2. Being found *in Christ*, who intercedes for their persons (Heb 7.25) and offers their prayers with His own (Rev 8.3-4), their prayers are never ignored, Ps 17.6; 50.15.
  - B. Contrariwise, because their persons are *outside of Christ*, the prayers of the wicked are an abomination to God, Pr 15.8.
    - 1. The only prayer God will hear from the wicked is a prayer of the humble surrender of their persons to Christ, Isa 55.6-7.
- II. The first encouragement to dispel your doubts that the Lord hears your prayers is to remind you that it is His nature to hear.
  - A. It is His name, Ps 65.2. He alone is the Object of true prayer. He sits on a seat of mercy and grace, with His ears open, attune, and attentive to your prayers.
  - B. He never rejects the least sigh, groan, tear, or look heavenward that deserves the name of prayer, Rom 10.12; Ps 86.5; Heb 11.6; Jer 29.13.
- III. Secondly, it is His glory to hear you.
  - A. This is one of the glorious characteristics by which He distinguishes Himself from all the idols we're so prone to worship, viz., that He hears our prayers, Ps 115.4-6; 135.15-17.
  - B. And it's because He hears prayer that the psalmist charges us to trust in Him and not in idols, Ps 115.9-11.
- IV. Thirdly, He hears you because of the great honor your prayers do to Him.
  - A. Prayer to Him recognizes and confesses that from Him alone comes every good gift, Js 1.17.
  - B. Prayer to Him recognizes and confesses your dependence upon Him, 2Chr 20.12.
  - C. Prayer to Him is a recognition and confession of His greatness and willingness to hear you, Ps 121.1-2; 2Chr 14.11; 2Sam 7.22.
  - D. Your prayers are received by Him as an offering to Him, Heb 13.15. —And all this honors Him as the God who hears prayer.

- V. Fourthly, it pleases and delights His heart to hear your prayers, Pr 15.8; Song 2.14.
  - A. He's accessibly seated on a throne of grace ready to welcome you, Heb 4.14-16; Ps 65.2.
  - B. He's more than ready to answer you when you pray, Isa 65.24.
  - C. He's generous in the warrant He's given you for your prayers, Js 1.5; Lk 12.32. His storehouse in Christ is chock full of blessings for the asking, Phil 4.19; Eph 1.3.
- VI. Fifthly, He's promised to hear your prayers, Mt 7.7; Jn 15.7; Ps 81.10. He's more ready to hear and answer than we are to pray.
- VII. For directions on how to pray, see Mt 6.7-15 and WSC 98-107.

**Reflections for Application**

- I. We do not have because we do not ask, Js 4.2.
  - A. We forfeit so many blessings because we don't ask God for them.
  - B. Also, if we find ourselves complaining that a sermon or a Lord's Day wasn't profitable to us, we should consider if we ever prayed for God to bless those things to us.
  - C. Likewise, maybe the reason we can't seem to profit by our afflictions is because we're not praying for profit and growth, but only for rescue and comfort.
- II. What a wonderful privilege we have to pray to God! Ps 135.13-21.
  - A. We have access to the God of heaven and earth—ready access, unlimited access, generous access, promised access. How thankful we should be for this!
  - B. The world is full of people who don't have this access, who are still living in the blindness and ignorance of idolatry.
  - C. And how thankful we should be to have His holy Word to guide us in what we should ask when we pray, 1Jn 5.14-15.
  - D. Why, then, would we not be a praying people?
- III. Let this be your comfort in every strait and trial: that you always have access to God by prayer.
  - A. Men may take your every resource and leave you destitute, but they cannot take this privilege from you. You can always pray.
  - B. In fact, having this grant from God, you are never without hope or help or cause for thanks in any strait whatsoever.
  - C. So wherever you are, in whatever condition, this is your encouragement and comfort: that you have access to God by prayer and that He hears you.