

Communicating with God

From Cindy Buntin

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil 1 Peter 3:12

Do you believe God hears your prayers? Or, do you believe the prayers of others carry more weight than yours because you see them as more righteous than you?

If you are a child of God, you can know with certainty that God does hear your prayers!

Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. Morning by morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. Psalm 5:1-3

Romans 3:22 teaches us that when we put our faith in Christ, we become righteous. Christ's blood covers our sin and we are forever seen as righteous before God because Jesus is righteous. It's His free gift to us when we give our lives to Him.

It is this righteousness that enables us to go directly to God with our prayers. In fact, this is exactly what God wants us to do! He desires to be the Lord of our lives and wants us to seek Him in all things. He desires an intimate relationship with each of us. He longs for us to know Him better. It is when we pray and seek God's will in every area of our lives that we see His great provision. This increases our faith and trust in Him.

Our memory verse this week not only says that the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, but that His ears are attentive to their prayers.

I love that He uses the word attentive. Not only does God hear our prayers but we have His attention! How many times in our day do we give our full attention to someone who is talking to us? I always seem to be juggling several things at the same time - checking email, watching television, and trying to listen to my children's requests or talk to a friend on the phone. How comforting it is to know that God is not like us. He really is attentive to our prayers.

This verse doesn't say the Lord only hears the prayers of preachers, priests, missionaries, or any other person you may feel is more righteous than you. If you have surrendered your life to Christ, you can pray to God with confidence and know He is attentive to your prayers!

The second half of this verse says that God is against those who do evil. Does that mean God won't hear our prayers when we sin? Evil is used in the same context as the word righteous in this verse: it defines a person's character, not a single action. If you are covered by the blood of Jesus, you are seen as righteous before God, instead of evil.

When we sin as a Christian, our sin creates distance in our relationship with God. But He will not turn His face against us. He will convict us of our sin until we seek His forgiveness.

If you are a child of God, and you struggle with thinking God doesn't hear your prayers because you are not living a perfect life, this verse is great news! I encourage you to pray boldly, knowing that God is attentive to your prayers.

In Christ,
Cindy

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