



# The One Who God Hears

## **Jesus is our teacher concerning prayer.**

He showed, lived, and taught the conditions upon which prayer to the Father is pleasing and acceptable to Him. Some of the vital points He taught are:

### 1. **Prayer must be accompanied by faith:**

And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive” (Matt. 21:22). He was talking about praying for things in keeping with God’s will. Praying to be successful in a robbery, or in teaching false doctrine; or praying for a blessing that God in His wisdom is unwilling to grant are not requests God will grant or bless.

2. **He taught to pray simply:** “And when you are praying do not use meaningless repetition as the gentiles do, for they suppose they will be heard for their many words. Your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him” (Matt. 6:7-6).

3. **He taught that we must ask:** “Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks it shall be opened” (Luke 11:9-10).

4. **He taught us to pray persistently:** Jesus used a parable about an unrighteous judge and a widow who needed protection from her opponent. At first the judge ignored her pleas but she kept coming back. The judge finally granted her request, even though he did not fear God. The judge said, “And shall not God bring justice for His elect, who cry out to Him day and night,

though He bears long with them?” (Luke 18:1-7)

### 5. **He taught us our requests to the Father must be asked for in His (Jesus’) name:**

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:13-15). The last sentence of the text establishes that what we are to ask for, and what He will answer and do, are those things that are in keeping with His commandments.

6. **He taught that an unforgiving heart or attitude towards a fellow man hinders the Christian’s prayer request for forgiveness of sins:** Jesus said, “For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But, if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.” (Matt. 6:14-15)

7. **He taught to pray with a heart of humility.** Remember the Pharisee and the tax collector who went up to the temple to pray? The man acceptable to God (the tax collector) prayed, “God be merciful to me a sinner!” The other man, (a Pharisee, a proud and self righteous worshipper) looked around in his mind at other worshippers and thanked God he was not like other men. In his mind he saw himself as better than other men (superior to others in behavior and judgment). (Luke 18:9-14)

**Without a disposition, attitude, or heart of humility a Christian is not in a saved relationship with the Lord!** A Christian will

either have a proud heart (which is sinful), or a broken and contrite (humbled or crushed) heart. “These six things the Lord hates ... A proud look ...” (Prov. 6:16-17) “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and **saves such as have** a contrite heart.” (Psalms 34:18) “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, I dwell in the high and holy, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit.” (Isaiah 57:15) “... God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God ...” (1 Peter 5:5-6) “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.” (James 4:10) A Christian **MUST** repent of pride and arrogance to be right with God.

**All Christians are called to be good stewards when it comes to prayer!** Prayer is a work of faith that all Christians can do! Jude 20 and 21 say, “But beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God ...”.

**How is your heart today? Is it broken, humble and contrite, or is it proud? Your salvation depends upon the state of your heart.** The effectiveness and fruitfulness of your life as a Christian depends upon it. (See Eph. 6:17-19; Col. 4:12; Phil. 1:9-11; Heb. 13:20-21; Eph. 3:14-21; Col. 1:9-12; Jas 5:13-20)

**“The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”**  
**Psalms 34:18**

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