



Whose prayers does God hear? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Whose prayers does God hear?

REPLY: Let God tell us!.

1. God does not listen to those who will not hear Him!

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight. (**Proverbs 15:8**)

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination. (**Proverbs 28:9**)

The prophet Daniel summarizes the point:

As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. (**Daniel 9:13-14**)

2. God rejects worship that is not what He commanded!

a. Jesus established the Supper that remembers His death

(**Luke 22:19-20**); Paul preached that example (**1 Corinthians 11:23**); but the Corinthians did not practice it that same way (**1 Corinthians 11:17-22**). The only way they could make it right was to go back to what Jesus had said and done on that subject (**1 Corinthians 11:27-29**).

b. Likewise, Jesus established His plan of salvation for every soul:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (**Mark 16:15-16**)

1) All who have changed this plan are not saved. God has never authorized a change, for God wrote through Paul:

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. (**Galatians 1:8**).

A changed gospel never saved anyone!

2) **Jesus, nor the Apostles, nor Christians ever asked unbelievers or the unfaithful to pray for them, or approach God on their behalf.**

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." (**Luke 11:1**)

What follows (**Luke 11:2-4**) is the falsely-called "Lord's Prayer," but it is the pattern for Jesus' disciples to follow. After Jesus's resurrection, He said,

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." (**Matthew 28:19-20**)

Only "the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (**Acts 11:26**). After Jesus' ascension into Heaven, the eleven Apostles "all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication" (**Acts 1:14**). And when Herod planned his execution,

Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. (**Acts 12:5**).

The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous. (**Proverbs 15:29**)

— JTP II March 10, 2019