

God's Response

Perhaps there is no promise more clearly or consistently stated in the Scriptures than the truth that God is attentive to the supplications of His faithful children. As the Psalmist once wrote – “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry” (Psalms 34:15). Do you believe that promise? Do you truly believe that God attentively listens to your prayers?

Those who are living righteously before God can have confidence that God hears their prayers. The ungodly and rebellious should not expect a positive response from Him whom they curse in the good times and to whom they may flee only in times of trouble. “The face of the LORD is against those who do evil...” (Psa. 34:16; cf. 1 Peter 3:12). God, like any parent, is not inclined to grant the petitions of a defiant child while he continues in disobedience to the Father's will.

It is tragic that some Christians (perhaps many) have doubts that God consistently fulfills His promise to hear their prayers. When one says, “I prayed for such and such to come to pass, but God did not hear my prayer,” he usually means that God did not immediately give him that for which he asked.

However, to conclude that God has not heard one's prayer simply because it wasn't answered immediately and in the affirmative, shows a serious lack of understanding.

God hears all prayers, but He doesn't necessarily answer them in a way that is noticeable to us immediately. We must distinguish between God's hearing and answering of prayers. Since our Heavenly Father is omniscient, He most certainly hears every prayer in the sense of His being aware of each one (including those uttered by unbelievers and by His unfaithful children). However, it is a mistake to reason that God must or will respond according to each petitioner's expectations simply because He hears their prayers. The Bible does not teach this principle anywhere.

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