



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

3449 Cherryville Rd., Northampton • Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm
Daniel E. Lundmark • pastor@NAOG.ws • 610-262-5645

The Prayer God Hears

Does God discriminate in hearing prayers? Absolutely! He says there are some prayers **He will not hear** and other prayers that **He will hear**. Do you know why?

In Isaiah 1:15, God proclaims, ***"When ye make many prayers, I will not hear!"*** Then God gives the reason **why he will not hear their prayers**. He declares, ***"Your hands are full of blood."*** Isaiah states, ***"Your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"*** (Isaiah 59:2). David said it this way, ***"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"*** (Psalm 66:18).

Now, don't get me wrong. God will hear the prayer of a sinner if he is humbly praying to God in sincere repentance. You can be sure God will not hear the prayer of one who clings to and defends his sin in self-righteous pride. **God hears the prayer of those who reject sin and do what is right** in God's eyes as we read in 1 Peter 3:12, ***"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers."*** In Psalm 34:17 we read, ***"The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth."***

The prayer God hears is a sincerely humble prayer. In Luke 11:10-14, Jesus told of two men who prayed at the temple. The religious Pharisee's prayer was composed of self-righteous boasting, but Jesus said, ***"The publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."*** Yes, the prayer God hears is the prayer of the humble and obedient as He promises in Isaiah 66:2, ***"To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."***