

## BIBLICAL PRAYER (23)

5) **John 9:31** - God will not listen to the prayers of those who do not believe on Him.

There are many other texts that teach this same principle: **Deuteronomy 1:45; I Samuel 8:18 (6-7); Job 27:9; Psalm 18:41; Ezekiel 8:18; Micah 3:4.**

The only prayer that God will potentially answer for an unbeliever is one that would call on Jesus Christ for salvation. It is only this prayer that God will answer and there could even be times when He wouldn't even answer this prayer. Every unbeliever needs to carefully think about the fact that "now is the accepted time" to pray to God and trust Jesus Christ.

Floyd Barackman in writing concerning this prayer for salvation says this:

"How does one believe the gospel? Inwardly, he gives assent to the facts of the gospel, repents, and makes a heart decision to trust Jesus as His Savior. Outwardly, he confesses his agreement and decision to God by prayer (**Romans 10:9-10**). Upon doing this he is saved (**v. 13**). God immediately applies to him the value of Christ's atoning work and saves him as He promises ..."  
(*Practical Christian Theology*, p. 252).

When a baby is born, there is a natural inclination for the baby to cry out. It is the same in the process of salvation. When God is causing one to be born again, there is a supernatural inclination for the sinner to cry out to God for salvation.

The prayer that must be made, for an unbeliever, is the prayer of salvation. It would seem in light of many passages that this prayer needs to be made when the Spirit of God is convicting the individual to cry out to God. If a person did not respond to the Spirit of God, from a human perspective, he could place himself in a dangerous position whereby God may not convict him again and thus even if he were to make such a prayer, the Lord possibly would not answer.

This brings us to an interesting theological matter. If God has promised that the only prayer He will answer from the unbeliever is a prayer that calls on Him for salvation, how do we explain the seeming reality that God does, at times, seem to grant the requests of an unbeliever?

When God grants the request of an unbeliever, it was not because the unbeliever was praying, for God has clearly stated that He will not hear (answer) the prayer of an unbeliever. In such an instance where it appears God does answer, it is apparently due to the fact that the outcome determined by God happened to coincide with the desires of the unbeliever. In such cases, the unbeliever needs to know that his prayer had nothing to do with the answer, but it just happened to coincide with the will of God. As Dr. Thomas Constable writes: "...the only prayer of an unbeliever that God has promised always to answer is one calling on Him for salvation" (*Essays*, p. 100).

Unless one is willing to come to a point in his or her life in which he will call upon God for salvation, he will not be saved. A prayer for salvation is something every person being convicted by the Spirit of God will do. This is the only prayer God will potentially answer for an unbeliever because all other prayer answers are reserved for those who love God and His Word.