

BIBLICAL PRAYER (22)

QUESTION #7 – What are the various types of prayer found in the Bible?

When we analyze the Scriptures, there is no question that there are different types of or classifications of prayers. When it comes to prayer, in most cases, one will not systematically limit himself or herself to one particular type. But when studying the subject of prayer, it is critical to our understanding that we recognize the Biblical distinctives between the various types.

Type #1 - There is the prayer for salvation . **Romans 10:13; Acts 2:21**

This is the only prayer in the Bible that God has promised to answer for an unbeliever and Scriptures reveals that there may be times when He would choose not to answer this prayer (i.e. **Romans 1:24, 26, 28**). However for the most part, any who pray to God for salvation will be saved.

Obviously by virtue of God's Omniscience and Omnipresence, He hears all prayers, but as Dr. Thomas Constable says: "The only prayer of a non-Christian that God promises to answer is a prayer calling on Him for salvation on the basis of the finished work of Jesus Christ ..."
(*Essays in Honor of J. Dwight Pentecost*, p. 100).

Prayer has always been a critical factor of salvation and deliverance in both the Old and New Testament (i.e. **Psalm 107:6, 13, 19**). It stands to reason that in order for one to be saved from the damning enemy of sin and condemnation, some appeal or prayer to God must be made.

We list this prayer first because until an unbeliever is willing to pray to be saved, all other acts of prayer are nothing more than religious ritual and "efforts in futility."

There are many passages of Scripture which plainly state that God will not hear, in the sense of hearing and answering, the prayer of an unbeliever who refuses to respond to His truth:

- 1) **Proverbs 1:28** - People who refuse to favorably respond to God will not see God answer their prayers, which could even eventually include a prayer for salvation (**Proverbs 15:29**).
- 2) **Proverbs 28:9** - Those who turn away from the Word of God offer prayers to God that God considers to be an abomination.
- 3) **Isaiah 1:15** - Unbelieving Israel had reached such a point of rebellion that God refused to answer any prayer (**Isaiah 59:2**).
- 4) **Jeremiah 11:6-11** - God would not hear the prayers of one who refuses to hear His Word or deal with sin. This text is in the context of His own nation, which clearly implies it is possible for an unbeliever to reach a point in which God would not even answer a prayer for salvation.