Objections to Prayer #'s 5 & 6

THE SECRET KEY TO HEAVEN

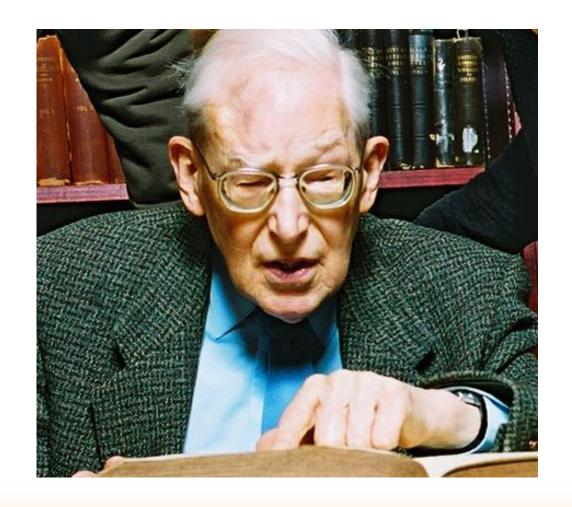
THOMAS BROOKS

J. I. Packer

July 22, 1926 – July 17, 2020

On prayer:

"Hot line" it truly is, for though he is Lord of the worlds, he always has time for us; his eye is on everything every moment, yet we always have his full attention whenever we call on him. Marvelous! But have we really taken it in?"



"I would drive a private trade with God, I would exercise myself in secret prayer, but I lack a convenient place to retire into; I lack a private corner in which to unburden my soul to my Father, etc.:

If He has given us Christ...He most commonly gives a place to pray.

(Romans 8:32)

Because of Romans 8:32, It is not a <u>lack of place</u>, rather

It is the <u>lack of a heart</u> to pray.

"Whatever we set our hearts upon, we will find time and place to effect it."

Gardening

College Football

<u>Facebook</u>

Entertainment

Shopping

A Christian is free to pray anytime, anywhere.

"Every saint is God's temple, and he that carries his temple around with him, may go to prayer when [where] he pleases.

St. Augustine

Did you not in your unregenerate state make use of your entire faculty to find a place to sin?

Could you not find a secret corner to gossip, a bar to indulge drunkenness, or an office to cheat a customer?

We would be often in private prayer with God, we would give ourselves up to closet prayer, but no sooner do we shut our doors, than a multitude of infirmities, weaknesses and vanities face us, and rise up against us.

Arguably this is the most legitimate objection in the book

Romans 12:1-2:"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies bas a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the <u>renewal of your mind</u>, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Answer: If this were ultimately fatal to prayer, what man or woman would ever be found in that duty?

(Psalm 130:3: "If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD who could stand?)

"In every good man (regenerate), there are two men, the old man and the new; the one must be daily put on, and the other daily put off."

Scripture is full of <u>sinful</u> Christians who prayed down the heavens:

Jonah

Elijah

David

Moses

Paul (added)

When He hears our prayers, it is not for our sakes but for His own sake and His Son's sakes, and His glory's sake.

- It is to God's glory to pass by our infirmities.
- Saints are His children, and He is a compassionate Father.
- Saints are Christ's body, what man will cut off his nose because there is filth in it?
- Saint's are Christ's purchase, His possession, His inheritance.
- Saint's are in a marriage covenant with God.

"Our infirmities cannot make God's promises void which He stand ready to hear their prayers."

"His hearing does not depend on our sanctification, but upon Christ's intercession and what we are in Him, both beloved and accepted."

The more infirmities and weaknesses hang upon us, the more cause we have to keep close and constant to our closet duties.

The more the remedy is neglected, the more the disease is strengthened.

Thomas Brooks ends this discussion on with three sets of comparisons and contrasts to illustrate his point and show how this varies by degrees.

Contracted Indisposition

Through some grievous sin, guilt plagues you because you sinned against the light. We thus shy away from God's light and holiness.

God will indeed remove our quilt.

Involuntary Indisposition

Example: A sick man who would walk but cannot.

God will in mercy pardon this and will (hopefully) remove.

Total Indisposition

Partial Indisposition

No mind to pray at all evidences no life of the Spirit present.

We have some (fervor, closeness, etc.) but not as before.

You must wait upon the Lord for the new birth.

Will the Lord not pardon it and fan it into flame again?

Transient, accidental, occasional Indisposition

Constant and Permanent Indisposition

True in the best of saints and will work off in degrees (as we walk with Christ.)

As in the case where there is no heart to pray, there is no regeneration.

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On prayer:

"When...we find ourselves so muddle-headed, dead-hearted, and tongue-tied in prayer that "we do not know how to pray as we ought," then our very desire to pray as we should and our grief that we are not doing so shows that the Spirit is himself making effective intercession for us in our hearts (Romans 8:26) which is as reassuring as it is mysterious, and as thrilling as it is amazing.

