

## **GOD RESPONDS**

Proverbs 15:29 ... "The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous."

Before God can respond to your prayer, he must hear it. Today's verse informs us that God hears the prayers of the righteous. Christ declares you righteous when you are born again. Also, 1 John 5:14 tells us that "...if we ask anything according to his [Christ's] will, he hears us." The only prayer God hears from someone who has not fully committed to living for Christ, is the prayer of confession and repentance when he or she accepts Christ as Lord and Savior. John 9:31 reads: "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, he hears him." This also applies to back-sliders – believers who live carnal lifestyles.

So, those are the three circumstances in which God will hear your prayer: 1) Spoken by a born-again believer, 2) when you pray according to his will, and 3) confession and repentance.

After God hears you, what is his response? Naturally, most of us are not very satisfied if our only confidence when we pray is that God hears us; we want to see action and results. Perhaps James 4:3 will help you. It reads: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss..." which means you ask for things that do not please God. If you expect God to provide you with something that is against his plan for your life (or against his own Word, the Bible), then you do not know God very well.

Here is the sequential road map for answered prayer:

- 1) Pray the prayer of confession and repentance and accept Christ as your Lord and Savior. God will not hear or answer any other prayer until you take that step. This can also affect you if you are a believer with unconfessed sin.
- 2) After being born-again, Christ declares you righteous, which grants you access to God.
- 3) For God to hear any other prayer, you must pray according to his will, which means that you ask for the things that please him and give him glory.
- 4) To receive positive answers to your prayers, they must support God's plan for your life.

If you do not feel God is listening to you, check this list and make sure you are satisfying God's requirements for prayer. And, make sure you are really saved. You are not born-again by being a member of a church, or because your mother was a Christian, or because you go to youth camp. You are a born-again believer only after you confess and repent of your sins, and invite Jesus to influence every aspect of your life.

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