

Does God Answer a Sinner's
Prayer?

Does God Hear a Sinner's Prayer?

- Yes – Prov. 15:3

Proverbs 15:3 ESV

The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Does God Hear a Sinner's Prayer?

- Yes – Prov. 15:3
- And No – Prov. 15:8, 29; Jn. 9:21

Proverbs 15:8 ESV The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him.

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

God Answers the Prayers of Some Sinners

- His children who have sinned – 1 Jn. 1:8-9

1 John 1:8-9 ESV

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God Answers the Prayers of Some Sinners

- His children who have sinned – 1 Jn. 1:8-9
- Simon – Acts 8

Acts 8:9-22 ESV

But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. ... 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. ...

Acts 8:9-22 ESV

... 18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

God Answers the Prayers of Some Sinners

- His children who have sinned – 1 Jn. 1:8-9
- Simon – Acts 8
- The thief on the cross – Luke 23:39-43

Luke 23:39-43 ESV

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

God Answers the Prayers of Some Sinners

- **His children who have sinned – 1 Jn. 1:8-9**
- Simon – Acts 8
- The thief on the cross – Luke 23:39-43

God does not Answer the Prayers of All Sinners

- Not Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9:8-11; 22:16

Acts 9:8-11 ESV

Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,

Acts 22:16 ESV

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

God does not Answer the Prayers of All Sinners

- Not Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9:8-11; 22:16
- Not Cornelius – Acts 10:3-5; 11:14

Acts 10:3-5; 11:14 ESV

About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ... 11:14 He will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

God does not Answer the Prayers of All Sinners

- Not Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9:8-11; 22:16
- Not Cornelius – Acts 10:3-5; 11:14
- He does not save anyone on the basis of a prayer! – Acts 15:11

Acts 15:11 NKJV

11 “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

Requirements for a Successful Appeal under US Law

- In the proper court

Requirements for a Successful Appeal under US Law

- In the proper court
- In the proper time

Requirements for a Successful Appeal under US Law

- In the proper court
- In the proper time
- In the proper way

Requirements for a Successful Appeal under God's Law

- In the proper court – 2 Cor. 5:10

2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Requirements for a Successful Appeal under God's Law

- In the proper court – 2 Cor. 5:10
- In the proper time – 2 Cor. 6:2

2 Corinthians 6:2 ESV

For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Requirements for a Successful Appeal under God's Law

- In the proper court – 2 Cor. 5:10
- In the proper time – 2 Cor. 6:2
- In the proper way – 2 Pet. 3:21

1 Peter 3:21 ESV

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as **an appeal to God for a good conscience**, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

God Provides Forgiveness...

- To His children, through repentance and prayer
- To those who are not His children, through repentance and baptism, making them His children