

No. 86 Prayers That Are Heard by God

PLEASE NOTE: Motivate listeners to draw close to God in prayer. Build confidence that God hears and answers proper prayers. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the point indicated

JEHOVAH GOD IS THE HEARER OF PRAYER (3 min.)

Millions of people pray, whether they are religious or not (*w15* 10/1 3)

Does God hear our prayers, and if so, does he answer them?

The Bible assures us that Jehovah God is the “Hearer of prayer” [Read Psalm 65:2]

He is never too busy to listen; we can pray to him frequently and at length (Lu 6:12; 1Th 5:17)

HOW CAN WE PRAY IN A WAY THAT PLEASES GOD? (10 min.)

Prayer is an act of worship; we should pray only to Jehovah God

Praying to “saints” or idols is futile (Ex 20:4, 5; *g* 11/10 20-21)

We should pray in Jesus’ name, not to Jesus himself (Mt 6:9; Joh 14:6; Heb 7:25)

We should approach God humbly, respectfully, and with faith (Heb 11:6; *w14* 12/1 5 ¶2)

God wants us to speak from our heart instead of repeating memorized prayers (Mt 6:7)

There is no need to follow a ritual or assume a specific posture; we can pray aloud or silently and in any location (*bhs* 177 ¶10) [Image 1]

To be heard by God, we must do our best to live according to his standards (Pr 15:29; 1Pe 3:12)

God does not listen to the prayers of selfish or violent people (Isa 1:15; Jas 4:3)

WHAT CAN WE PRAY ABOUT? (10 min.)

We can speak to God about any matter that concerns us [Read 1 John 5:14, 15]

To be heard by God, our prayers must be in harmony with his will

Jesus’ model prayer includes important topics that we can pray about (Mt 6:9-13; *w10* 10/1 7-8)

Most important, our prayers should express our desire for God’s name to be sanctified and for his Kingdom to come

Our prayers should include praise and thanks to God [Read Philippians 4:6]

By our prayers, we can strengthen our friendship with Jehovah

We can express our innermost feelings, including our pains and sorrows (1Sa 1:15; Ps 62:8)

We can ask God to forgive our sins (Ps 32:5)

We can pray for the courage and strength needed to do God’s will (Ps 51:10, 12; Ac 4:29)

HOW DOES GOD ANSWER OUR PRAYERS? (7 min.)

Jehovah gives us help when we ask for it, and he cares for our genuine needs (Lu 11:11-13; *w14* 4/1 6)

We should not expect God to remove all of our trials; he may answer our prayers by giving us needed strength (2Co 12:7-9)

Jehovah knows what is best for us, and he answers our prayers at the right time (1Pe 5:6, 7)

He may answer in ways that go beyond our expectations (Eph 3:20)

Jehovah can answer our requests for guidance through his Word, the Bible (Ps 119:105; Jas 1:5)

We need to act in harmony with our prayers (*bhs* 176 ¶8)

Continue to draw close to God in prayer, confident that he hears your prayers (Ps 145:18; Pr 15:8)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.
Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Reminders for Those Assigned Public Talks* (S-141)]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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S-34-E No. 86 5/22