

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

January 24, 2021

“Conditions Of Acceptable Prayer”

by Jeff Wolverton

Acceptable prayer must be preceded by faithful, righteous living. Many Christians live spiritually indolent, impure lives and expect the mouthing of a few words of prayer from time to time to make all things right between them and their Creator. Needless to say, they pray in vain. If we would pray to God for His manifold blessings and have our petitions granted, we must strive to follow the path of obedience, turning away from evil and doing good. See John 9:31; I Peter 3:10-12 (a quote from Psalms 34:12-16); I John 3:21-22; and James 5:16.



*“He who turns away his ear from listening to the law,
Even his prayer is an abomination.” (Proverbs 28:9)*

It must be offered in faith. Genuine prayer is expressive of a belief that God answers prayer, for one cannot truly pray to God who does not believe that his prayer will be answered. God will not answer any prayer unless it is offered to Him in faith (Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24).

After James exhorts those who lack wisdom to request it from God, he designates the absolute requirement of faith to make such a request answerable by God (James 1:6, 7). The Christian whose life is victorious through Christ is one whose life is supercharged with faith, for *"this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith"* (I John 5:4).

Let us be certain that our prayers are offered in faith, nothing doubting, for without faith they will fail to reach the throne of God's grace.

It must be offered in sincerity, humility, and fervency. "I will pray with the spirit ..." (I Corinthians 14:15). The word "spirit" refers here to the correct attitude: sincerity, humility, and fervency, important characteristics of every acceptable prayer.

“Hear a just cause, O Lord, give heed to my cry; give ear to my prayer, which is not from deceitful lips” (Psalms 17:1). Humility and sincerity in prayer involve a strong sense of our sins and unworthiness. This is taught in the Lord's parable of the publican and Pharisee, revealed in Luke 18:10-14.

The need of drawing near to God with a deep, sincere sense of our shortcomings is further stressed in James 4:8-10. When one prays to God in humility and sincerity, he will necessarily be single-minded, intense, and fervent—not halfhearted, listless, and lethargic. His whole being will be projected toward the mind of God. "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly ..." (James 5:17).

"Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bond slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers ..." (Colossians 4:12). Must be offered with understanding. "I will pray with the spirit: and I will pray with the mind also" (I Corinthians 14:15).

Even after we have earnestly applied ourselves to the search for divine truth, the fallacy of our beings keeps us from knowing perfectly what we should pray for, and we must rely upon the aid of the Holy Spirit.

"And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27).

Must be offered in the name of Christ. Our Lord declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus here affirms that He is the sole access that men have to the presence and blessings of God. This truth is also revealed in the relationship of the Lord to us as our high priest (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Prayers to God which are not offered through Jesus Christ our high priest are uttered in vain (Colossians 3:17; John 14:13-14).

“Tipping Point”

by Wilson Adams

What is the tipping point of the bowl of God's wrath? I don't know, but I know there is one. Sodom and Gomorrah had one. So did the immoral nations. So did His own people. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach..." (Proverbs 14:34).

So, what is our hope? It's not in politicians -- on both sides of policy divides. Have we been blessed as a nation because our leaders have been stellar examples of good and godliness, wisdom, and right? Hardly.

The righteousness of a people resides in the heart of ... people. God was willing to save Sodom for fifty righteous. Remember the countdown? *"For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."* Ten? Ten. (Genesis 18:22-32).

Never underestimate the power of a godly life. Scripture reminds us of a tipping point. A lack of a God-conscience along with sexual depravity seems to hasten it. Romans 1 says as much. I keep thinking about Abraham's countdown: 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10 ... Ten righteous. By the way, not self-righteous, but God righteous.

Never underestimate the power of a godly life. Love Him, love your neighbor, and shine a light of grace and truth.

“Consider The Source”

by Jason Hardin

Ezekiel 13 documents a fundamental problem that plagued people thousands of years ago and continues to be a dangerous pitfall.

“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration, ‘Listen to the word of the Lord!’ (Ezekiel 13:2).

Did you catch the problem? At a crucial point in Israel's history, some were teaching, reassuring, and encouraging the people *“from their own hearts.”* Their guide was *“their own spirit”* (Ezekiel 13:3). They were saying, *“Declares the LORD,”* when the LORD hadn't sent them (Ezekiel 13:6). They were proclaiming, *“Peace,”* when there was no peace and *“smearing”* fractures that desperately needed corrective attention *“with whitewash”* (Ezekiel 13:10).

It doesn't take an architect or engineer to know that you can smear spackle and paint all over a crumbling wall, but *“whitewash”* isn't going to keep it from falling if the foundation is compromised.

These “prophets” were so convincing and deluded, they “expected” the LORD to *“fulfill their word”* (Ezekiel 13:6) even though the source of their message was their own hearts. And the impact on the people around them? Devastating.

“Because you disheartened the righteous with falsehood when I did not cause him grief, but have encouraged the wicked not to turn from his wicked way and preserve his life,” (Ezekiel 13:22)

Notice especially that last verse. What good comes from “encouraging” someone who is headed away from God if traveling that path costs them their life and possibly their soul for eternity? When God is calling someone to turn in order to save them, I shouldn't be cheering them on in the wrong direction.

For millennia there have been messengers willing to tell us what we want to hear, but passages like Ezekiel 13 remind us to consider the source. Is what I'm hearing from the heart of God or the hearts of humans? If I follow the leading of this message, am I tracking with the spirit of the mere messenger or the Spirit of God?

Not all input is equally valid or valuable. Expecting the Almighty to fulfill my word is foolish. I was warned a long time ago that *“the heart is deceitful above all things”* (Jeremiah 17:9). I would do well, with all that I hear, to consider the source.

“What’s My Motive?”

Definition of **Motive**: “Something (such as a need or desire) that causes a person to act.”

Ex. Revenge was the murderer's *motive*.” (**Webster**)

It is the reason we do the things we do: (Good and Bad) Finding A Job, Going to Work, Going to School, Actors in Acting a Part, Criminals in Criminal Behavior...

I. What Motivated These?

1. Cain in **Genesis 4:3-8?** _____.
2. The People in **Genesis 11:2-4?** _____.
3. Noah in **Hebrews 11:7?** _____.
4. Abraham in **Hebrews 11:8-10?** _____.
5. Moses in **Hebrews 11:24-26?** _____.
6. Judas in **John 12:1-6?** _____.
7. Jewish Rulers in **John 12:42-43?** _____.
8. Jewish Leaders in **Matthew 27:17-18?** _____.

II. What Should Our Motives Be?

1. For Going To Services? **Hebrews 10:22-25.**
2. For Doing Our Good Works? **Ephesians 2:10; Not Like Matthew 6:1-4.**
3. For Our Prayers to God? **Matthew 6:5-8.**
4. For Our Preaching? **2 Timothy 4:1-5.**
5. For Our Evangelism? **Jude 1:21-23.**
6. For Our Giving? **2 Corinthians 9:6-7.**

III. Why We Should Always Have Good Motives.

1. Because God Knows Our Hearts—**Hebrews 4:12-13.**
2. To Have A Good Influence On Others— **1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.**
3. To Go To Heaven— **Hebrews 11:7; I Timothy 4:13-16.**

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois Wright, Dan & Linda Hunt, Mollie Harris, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Roy Robinson, Danny Cottrell (Dan's Dad)

Those Who Serve:

Announcements:	Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Doug George <i>Matthew 6:1-2</i>
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Lord's Supper:	Sam Johnson
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon:	<i>"What's My Motive?"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Paul Johnson

Visit our YouTube Channel:



Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXjxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.