

God Hears Us 1 Samuel 1

Truth: Man's highest activity is worship. We were made for the kind of communion with God that brings glory to Him and meaning to us.

Truth: If we are to escape the corruption of our culture and the sin of our own hearts, we must look to the LORD in faith to receive grace to be clean and to have a heart of worship.

Principle: Problems test our faith. Real world problems tempt us to meet them through culturally accepted, but disobedient means.

For if the blood of goats and bulls, . . . sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God." (Hebrews 9:13-14 ESV)

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, . . . , but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, . . . But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." (Hebrews 9:24-26 ESV)

Principle: Bitterness makes us capable of extreme unkindness. Our anger will justify our harshness and make us forget that we are sinning against the LORD through our resentment. Our anger makes us believe that God has the same view of the person that we hate so much.

Truth: God is too faithful to ever not hear us, He is too wise to ever make mistakes and He is too loving to ever be unkind. Prayer is always the right decision in our time of need.

Principle: We may often be right to assume the worst of others. But it is better to be wrong about 100 people's righteousness than to be wrong about one person's sin. Satan is the accuser, let us not do his work.

"If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame." (Proverbs 18:13 ESV)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV)

Truth: We do not live on explanations; we live on God's promises.

Main Idea: Whatever our situation, God hears us when we pray. The LORD invites us to make our requests known to Him in prayer.

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” (1 John 5:14-15 ESV)

God hears us when . . .

1. We are overwhelmed.

“Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!” (Psalm 4:1 ESV)

2. Others oppose us.

Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise up against me; deliver me from those who work evil, and save me from bloodthirsty men. For behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce men stir up strife against me. . . . Awake, come to meet me, and see!” (Psalm 59:1-4 ESV)

3. Others do not understand.

Principle: In our distress, we will find no shortage of wrong-headed comforters.

4. Others fail us.

Truth: Satan wants to use the failings of others to tempt us to doubt the LORD’s goodness. But know that God never fails us. He completely understands our troubles and always speaks what is true over us to help us.

Main Idea: Whatever our situation, God hears us when we pray. The LORD invites us to make our requests known to Him in prayer.

Application: Pray. Above all pray. Continue in prayer. Devote yourself to prayer.