

Does God answer the prayer of sinners?

The confusion arises because of the answer of an uninspired man.

Joh 9:30-31 The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. (31) We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.

KJV – heareth not NAS – does not hear

Although some here have decided that Cornelius was not a sinner because of what his servants said -- Act 10:1-2 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, (2) a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ... 22 They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you."

NAS, NIV, ASV – righteous KJV – just ESV – upright

In fact, Cornelius was a sinner, who stood condemned before God until he was baptized for the remission of his sins.

Act 10:46-48 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, (47) “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” (48) And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Num 22:28 Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”

If the Lord can have a donkey speak to direct men in His way, surely he could use Cornelius.

Act 9:9-12 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ... 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, (12) and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

Saul, a sinner, had been praying 3 days and the Lord knew about it.

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Saul, the sinner, was still in his sins, even though he had been praying 3 days and the Lord heard those prayers. His prayers did not save him from his sins, but his sins were washed away by the water of baptism.

1Ti 1:12-15 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, (13) though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, (14) and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (15) The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

It should be pointed out that God answered each of these sinner's prayers and that their prayers were for what to do to do God's will.

Act 11:13-14 And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; (14) he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

Another question that's connected to the first.
Does God always answer the prayer of a Christian?

Jas 4:2-4 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. (3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (4) You

adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

KJV- your lusts NAS – your pleasures
NIV – your desires

Ye adulterers and adulteresses
Is God speaking only of sexual pleasures?

Jas 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know
that friendship with the world is enmity with God?
Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the
world makes himself an enemy of God.

Some might ask, “is this physical or spiritual adultery” and the answer would be no such distinction exists in the scriptures.

The word *moichos* is the same word used in both broken marriage vows and broken faith with God.

Mat 5:27-29 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ (28) But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart ESV

But the ESV has clarified the KJV *to lust* “with lustful intent”. The look that does so with intent breaks the covenant a man has made with his wife.

The word for adultery is the same as elsewhere
moicheuo

As in Mt 5.28 also in Ja 4.4 the meaning of adultery is clearly a breaking of a man’s covenant with God.

James deals with it to a greater extent.

Jas 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?

Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Those who are not faithful do not pray as God would have us pray – in concert with God's will for us and others.

Where do we find God's will – in His word, not in our desires.

Jas 1:5-8 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (6) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Both in the OT and the NT, the prayer that is received by God is one that coincides with God's will in the matter

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

1Jn 3:21-24 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; (22) and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. (23) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (24) Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Jas 4:13-16 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— (14) yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. (15) Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” (16) As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Football games or retirement are matters of our desires.

We must remain confident -- Mat 6:25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

(26) Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (27) And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

(28) And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, (29) yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (30) But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (31) Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. (33) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (34) "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

What wonderful promises we have from the
Father. If you would be His child

Gal 3:24 So then, the law was our guardian until
Christ came, in order that we might be justified by
faith. (25) But now that faith has come, we are no
longer under a guardian, (26) for in Christ Jesus
you are all sons of God, through faith. (27) For as
many of you as were baptized into Christ have put
on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and
female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (29)
And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's
offspring, heirs according to promise.

