

New Testament Prayer

Confession

- I.** ‘Hypothetical’ question: “Does God answer the ‘prayers’ of an untaught Christian who ‘prays’ to Jesus?”
1. There are generally two approaches to arriving at an answer.
 - 1) “God depends, or needs prayer to tell Him what to do.” This method tends to prescribe to God how He should solve the problem.
 - 2) “God allows the Christian the privilege of partnership in His plan.” This line of reasoning tends to place emphasis upon being a vessel in His plan.
 2. The Holy Spirit ‘cleans up’ our worship communication (Rom. 8:26).
 3. There are many examples in Scripture, mostly negative, of “more enlightenment—more responsibility” (Rom. 1:20; Mt. 11:20-24; Mt. 26:24; 1 Cor. 4:5).
 4. When asking according to the Son’s desirous will, the Father hears us (1 Jn. 5:14).
 5. There is an inherent belief in the Father at salvation (Jn. 5:23; 6:29; 14:6; Rom. 4:24; 1 Pet. 1:21).
 6. One of the first truths the Holy Spirit illumines to the new believer is his new relationship with the Father (Gal. 4:6).
 7. When asking according to Christ’s desirous will, the Father hears us (1 Jn. 5:14).
- II.** Confession summary, all the terms together:
1. ‘Confess’ is to say to God exactly what I did, viewing it like He views it as abhorrent.
 2. ‘Sin’ is an act that God calls sin.
 3. ‘Faithful’ means when the conditions are met, it will happen.
 4. ‘Right’, (KJV just) points to the fact that God is acting righteous since His forgiveness is based on the work of Christ on the cross.
 5. ‘Forgive’ means to send away, not cover over as in the Old Testament.
 6. ‘The sins’ specifies that this promise is for the precise sins confessed.
 7. ‘Cleanse’ is ceremonially clean.
 8. ‘All unrighteousness’ includes the determination to commit sin, all the ‘unrighteous’ thoughts leading up to the sin act.