

Dear Mike,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked, “Does God answer prayers of a non-Christian?”

It is always appropriate to raise our voices in prayers of thanksgiving to God for all his many, many blessings to us. Psalms 144-150 are specifically songs of praise to the Lord. Assuredly, God hears all those who raise their voices in sincere praise to Him. But does He hear prayers of petition if they are made by a non-Christian?

We believe God hears the prayers of the righteous, those who honor his name by adhering to His laws and earnestly seek to know Him through his Word. “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.” (Psalm 34:15) Before we seek Him through prayer, we must have complete faith in Him. “Anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6) It is also important that the person petitioning God is seeking the Lord’s will to be done in his life and not seeking his own heart’s desire. The petitioner must be prepared to receive an answer that may be contrary to his wishes. Additionally, he must be willing to grow and accept change in his life if God wills it. In every case, God’s answers to prayers are directly dependent upon the heart attitude of the petitioner and, most importantly, God’s will in relation to the circumstances. Therefore, connection and communication with God grow in proportion to the petitioner’s dedication to His will.

What should we pray for? When Jesus’ disciples asked him how they were to pray, Jesus recited “The Lord’s Prayer” (Matthew 6:9-13). In the prayer he told them to glorify his Father in heaven. (“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”) He told them to pray for God’s plan to unfold. (“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”) Jesus also told them to petition for their basic needs (daily bread) and to ask for forgiveness and be forgiving of others. Lastly, he told them to seek God’s overruling and protection. (“And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.”) We are to entreat God to guide us so that no temptation will come upon us that is too severe for us.

Does God answer the prayers of a non-Christian? If one comes to God in prayer with a humble spirit truly seeking the Lord’s will, and not his own, his prayers will be heard and answered in proportion to his heart attitude toward God.

We hope we have answered your question. Please write us again.

Sincerely,  
Christian Questions Radio