

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRAYERS THAT **REACH** GOD'S HEART AND THE PRAYERS THAT **TOUCH** GOD'S HEART

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(Luke 18:9-14)

Every prayer does not touch the heart of God. The prayers that **TOUCH** God's heart are **NOT** based on articulation, religious affiliation or in-depth knowledge. God answers the prayers that touch His heart. God respects the prayers that reach His heart. There is a huge difference between God **RESPECTING** your prayer request and God **ANSWERING** your prayer request.

God answers the prayers that **ALIGN** with His divine will. James 4:3 says, "When you ask, you do not receive because the **REASON** you ask is **WRONG**. You want things so you can use them for your own pleasures." This scripture reminds us that God answers prayers. He answers prayers that are

established on righteous motives. When your prayers do not align with God's plan He will **NOT** answer them.

In order for God to respect your prayer it must be **HONEST**. A person who prays honestly will reach God's heart. In the prayer chamber God does not want to hear fancy words. He wants to hear **HONEST** words.

KEEP THIS IN MIND:

God does **NOT** answer an honest prayer. He **RESPECTS** an honest prayer. Why? People who recite honest prayers can still have the wrong intention.

A FOOLISH BELIEVER AND A WISE SINNER

Luke 18:9-14

In Luke 18:9-14 Jesus explained the difference between the prayers of a foolish pharisee and a wise sinner. This foolish Pharisee prayed to God by saying, "*I thank you that*

I am not like other people who steal, cheat, or take part in adultery, or even like this tax collector. I give up eating twice a week, and I give one-tenth of everything I get!"

This prayer was self righteous and prideful. However, it was honest. The prayer of the foolish Pharisee **REACHED** God's heart because it was honest. However, His prayer did **NOT** touch God's heart. People who pray honestly tell God what they believe.

The Pharisee **BELIEVED** that he was righteous. He **BELIEVED** that he was right with God. Please remember this Wisdom key. If you say what you believe it will always be respected. An honest prayer will be respected by God. However, it will **NOT** necessarily be accepted by Him.

In the same scenario there was a tax collector, a sinner who was in the same vicinity as the Pharisee. His prayer touched God's heart because he was **HUMBLE**. When the tax collector prayed he avoided looking up to heaven.

Luke 18:13 says, *"The tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even look up to heaven. But he beat on his chest because he was so sad. He said, God have mercy on me, a sinner."* The tax collector prayed under the conviction of humility. He recited an honest prayer.

This man's prayer was accepted because it **TOUCHED** God's heart. His motive was righteous. Luke 18:14 says, *"when the tax collector went home he was right with God and the Pharisee was not."* The prayer of the wise sinner was accepted. The prayer of the foolish Pharisee was rejected.

SAME ACTION, DIFFERENT RESULT

Both of these men prayed to God. However, only one of these prayers were accepted. The prayers that **REACH** God's heart will be **RESPECTED**, yet rejected. The prayers that **TOUCH** God's heart will be **ACCEPTED** and answered. When you pray to God make sure you pray like

the wise sinner. Be humble in your approach. Be honest in your disposition. People's prayers go unanswered because they reach God's ear, **NOT** His heart.

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