



SERIES: Becoming Spiritually Fit 2022

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Tuesday, 01/11/22

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16

TITLE: Does God Listen?

Can you remember the time as a kid when you were trying as hard as you could to get your mom or dad's attention, but they were busy? Or maybe you've seen other kids trying to do the same thing, maybe they tug on their parents' clothes or wave their hands or start to scream! Why is this so frustrating? Because deep down, we all want to be heard. Especially by the people that we care most about. Maybe you can relate to this in a different way; perhaps you've had your phone calls ignored or even left unread for a text message. That was especially tough because you know they saw it and ignored it anyway.

If we're being honest, I wonder if we don't sometimes think of prayer in the same way. Prayer is a complicated spiritual discipline, and we want to go before God and speak to Him, be known by Him, and be heard. But does God hear us when we pray?

This is difficult because we know we cannot physically see or hear God. I believe that He speaks to us through His word, but when we pray, how can we know that He hears us, especially when there doesn't appear to be an immediate response? If we go to the word of God, He's already made it clear to us that He cares for us, and He listens when His people speak to Him.

Let's look at Hebrews chapter 4 together. Hebrews 4:14–16 (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."

Through the perfect life and sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we now have a high priest who intercedes for us. In the Old Testament times, the high priest would go before God offering sacrifices on behalf of their people to pay for their sin so they could maintain a relationship with God.

The problem was that the people kept on sinning. So did the priests. So we needed a better high priest. Jesus is our perfect High Priest! Through faith in Jesus as our savior, we can know we can boldly approach God! When we pray, we know that through Christ, we are heard! We don't have to work to get God's attention; we don't have to wonder whether or not He hears us. So, as verse 16 directs us, we should pray with confidence; when we pray, we should draw near to His throne because it's the throne of grace!

When we are struggling, when we don't know where to turn, even when we find ourselves stuck in the same old sins, we know we can approach God and let Him know what's going on. We know we can ask for forgiveness through Jesus, and we know that He sees us that He hears us. With Jesus being our High Priest, we can come before God with bold prayers, and know we will find mercy in our times of need.

Pray knowing that Jesus goes before us and connects us to the throne of God. Know that He gave His life for us so that we could have a relationship with The God Who Made Us! God wants this relationship to be maintained. So when we speak, we know that He listens, He cares. We know that He forgives, we can pray with confidence knowing that He hears us through Jesus. By this, we know God hears us when we pray!