



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 130

If I regard Iniquity

Psalm 66:18

If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

Very simply God doesn't hear the prayers of those that are rebelling against Him. Now let me preface that for a moment. If you are praying a prayer of humility and repentance, God will always hear that prayer, even if this has come from a place of deep rebellion. But if we are simply asking for things in our life and yet do what is contrary to God's commands, the Lord has no obligation to hear us.

This is a good teaching because it reminds us of the severity of sin, and I think you know in many circles today the severity of sin is almost overlooked and not even talked about anymore.

But the psalmist here thought it very important to say, *if I regard iniquity in my heart.*' Another translation says. If I had cherished iniquity, or if I had observed iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not hear.

Brothers and sisters, it would be a dangerous place to be where our sins separate us from God and the work of Christ in our lives. If we continuously reject the work of the Holy Spirit, He has no obligation to do anything in our life.

If I have a habitual manner of resisting the work of the Holy Spirit in my life, why would God be obligated to hear my prayers? And also if I'm not moving forward in my walk with Christ, I need to look back at the last thing God told me to do. Did I do it?

So rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23) and just rebelling against God is sin enough. And so all rebellion is lawlessness and lawlessness is sin (1 John 3:4), and any sin that we can commit is rooted in lawlessness or rebellion against God commands. Now, it doesn't mean that God just leaves us

and stops working on us because we have sinned brothers and sisters. There's a difference between continuously sinning and committing a sin from time to time, there's a difference.

In other words, it is a direction that you're going. My direction is to please God and to do what is right. And I'm going to make mistakes at it. God doesn't forsake my prayers because I've made mistakes in that. But if I have a continuous pattern of only wanting to do what pleases me and thus rebel against God, then He has no obligation to hear my prayers, and so really that's the heartbeat of this teaching.

It's really simple when you break it down, but we have to at times remind ourselves of the true nature of God and His view on sin and rebellion. What should I do then? Well, first we need to understand that first God is merciful, gracious, and long-suffering (Exodus 34:6). Next, we have to understand that, while this is true, He does not leave the guilty unpunished (Exodus 34:7).

Just because someone believes in the Lord Jesus Christ does not mean that God all of the sudden just ignores sin in their life. As believers in Christ, we have the working of the Holy Spirit to do the work of sanctification that brings about understanding of sin in our lives unto transformation. And once sin is presented through revelation and conviction of the Holy Spirit, we can bring it to the throne of God. There we can receive grace and mercy for our time in need, and receive transformation through the work of the cross and the resurrection power of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:16).

So in that case, sin is something that is being dealt with on a continuous basis. It's being removed from our lives as we are making different decisions led by the Spirit. When we are in this place in our walks and are increasing we can be assured that God hears us and desires to respond.

But if I continually make decisions that displease God and quench the Spirit, then there's insincerity in my faith that needs to be put in check. And so, here the Lord does not regard my prayer because iniquity is being cherished.

There is something that I learned early on about this idea of cherishing sin in my life and the opposite of hating sin in my life. It is that I have noticed in my life that during moments where I did not actively hate the sin in my life that I was also not actively bringing it to the throne of grace in humility repenting and asking God to change my heart. Instead, I would lift up empty prayers for other things that never received answers while entirely avoiding the sin in my heart. But when I actively hated the sin in my life I was more apt to bend the knee and

turn to the life-giving power of Jesus Christ.

The question is short and sweet. Do you cherish your sin and justify it? Or, do you hate your sin and bend the knee?

This is really the key to understanding where we stand at any given time. Search your heart. Either you cherish your sin or you hate it. It is actually very simple. Either I cherish my sin and the Lord does not regard my prayers or I hate sin and then in humility repent and receive correction and thus an open ear of the God of heaven.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me, that is the sum of it, brothers and sisters.

We want to have pure hearts. We want to have clean hands. We don't want to lift our souls to what is false, but we want to continuously honor the Lord as Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God Almighty.

Well, we pray that the Lord would just continue to magnify His grace towards you, that He would fill you with His power and His anointing to bring about the work of sanctification in your lives so that you would come to know Him more and more as you grow in your faith. In Jesus name Amen. God bless you. We love you.

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Chris and Jeanne
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