



What Kind of Prayer Pleases God?

"This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." (Isaiah 66:2)

The first mark of the upright heart is that it trembles at the word of the Lord. Isaiah 66 deals with the problem of some who worship in a way that pleases God and some who worship in a way that doesn't. Verse 3 describes the wicked who bring their sacrifices, "He who slaughters an ox is like one who kills a man." Their sacrifices are an abomination to God — on a par with murder. Why?

In verse 4 God explains, "When I called, no one answered, when I spoke, they did not listen." Their sacrifices were abominations to God because the people were deaf to his voice. But what about those whose prayers God heard? God says in verse 2, "This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

I conclude from this that the first mark of the upright, whose prayers are a delight to God, is that they tremble at God's word. These are the people to whom the Lord will look.

So, the prayer of the upright that delights God comes from a heart that at first feels precarious in the presence of God. It trembles at the hearing of God's word, because it feels so far from God's ideal and so vulnerable to his judgment and so helpless and so sorry for its failings.

This is just what David said in Psalms 51:17, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." The first thing that makes a prayer acceptable to God is the brokenness and humility of the one who prays. They tremble at his word. (JP)

Theology 101 – From the Mind to the Heart: Our next Theology 101 class will be Saturday, August 9th, at 9:00 a.m...

Wednesday Bible Study: Tonight, at 6:30 pm, we will be continuing our study on *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. We will be discussing what to do when you're experiencing a crisis of Faith...

Sunday's Service: Walking in the Newness of Life – Part Two (Romans 6:1-14) <https://youtu.be/Z3xomZ6fcXY>

This Sunday's Message: Walking in the Newness of Life – Part Three (Romans 6:1-14)

Great Quote: "The climax of God's happiness is the delight He takes in the echoes of His excellence in the praises of His people." (John Piper)

Six Steps to Shield Yourself from Satan

by Steve Fuller

Every day we are attacked by Satan's flaming darts. It might be suddenly feeling bitter over someone's gossip, or fearful about our finances, or jealous of your friend's promotion. The good news is that God has given us a weapon that can extinguish all of them: *In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.* (Ephesians 6:16)



So no matter how many flaming darts Satan fires against us, the shield of faith can extinguish them *all*. But that doesn't happen automatically. Shields need to be picked up, and used. So how do we do that? Here are steps I have found helpful.

1. **First, identify the flaming dart.** Maybe someone gossiped about you, or didn't invite you to the party, or hurt you in some other way. And you feel bitterness rising in your heart. That bitterness is a flaming dart fired by Satan to destroy you. The same is true with lust, greed, and impatience. So first, identify the dart.
2. **Trust that this dart can be quenched.** When the flaming dart lands, and you feel your heart filling with bitterness, you can feel like there's nothing you can do about it. That's why it's crucial to see that this flaming dart can be quenched. Look again at Ephesians 6:16 above.
3. **Understand that it can only be quenched by the shield of faith.** This flaming dart of bitterness *cannot* be quenched by:
 - Trying to stop feeling bitter,
 - Looking on the bright side, or
 - Taking a deep breath and counting to 10.

None of those will quench the flaming dart, because none of those involve faith. The only way to quench Satan's darts is with the shield of faith – faith in Christ. So how do you pick up that shield and use it?

4. **Turn to Jesus Christ.** The shield is a shield of faith, and faith means trusting all that God has promised to be for us in Jesus Christ. So, *turn your heart to Jesus Christ*. You don't need to get rid of your bitterness first. Because of Jesus's death on the cross, you can turn to him as you are, confessing your sin and asking him to forgive you for your bitterness. And he will. Then ask him to help you use the shield of faith to extinguish this flaming dart of bitterness.
5. **Find promises which counter the flaming dart.** Faith means trusting all that God promises to be for us in Christ. So it's crucial to find promises in God's word — specific, blood-bought promises — which counter the flaming dart. So what promise would help with bitterness over what someone did to you, or said about you? I have found Genesis 50:20 helpful, because this is what Joseph said to his brothers after they had sold him into slavery: *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*
6. **Pray over those promises until you feel God strengthening your faith and changing your heart.** Here's how I might pray over Genesis 50:20: *Father, help me understand this promise. This verse says that whatever this person did to me, you meant for good. But all I'm feeling now is the bad that has come from what they did. So help me trust that you are using this to bring me the greatest good of your nearness, love, and glory, as you promised in 2 Corinthians 4:17–18, 1 Peter 1:6–7, and 1 Peter 5:10. Please, Father, give me that greatest good now. Satisfy me so fully in yourself that my bitterness is comforted and I am rejoicing in you.*

This might take some time. But wait patiently on the Lord (perhaps praying Psalms 40:1–3 to help you). Pray also over Scriptures which display Christ's beauty and glory (like Galatians 2:20 or Mark 2:1–12 or Revelation 5:1–14). You might also want to ask some brothers or sisters in Christ to pray with you and for you.

As you pray over God's word, he will help you. He will strengthen your faith, help you see and feel the glory of Christ, and change your heart. You will move from feeling bitterness, hurt, and anger to feeling contentment, satisfaction, and joy in Christ. And the flaming dart will be extinguished.



Prayer Needs:

- Please continue to pray for Nicole and her family. They lost their house and car and are starting over. They have been approved for housing but are waiting for it to come through.
- Please continue to pray for Tomas. He is just starting out walking with the Lord. Please pray for a job so he can support his family.
- Please continue to pray for Brother Jeff. He will be having surgery to remove a mass in his abdomen.
- Please continue to pray for David. He is 12 years old and just had a heart transplant and is still in ICU.
- Please continue to pray for Debbie. She is new to the church and desires to get closer to God and find peace in her heart and life.
- Please continue to pray for Mary. She is undergoing treatment for stage 4 kidney cancer. Please pray for healing and for more good days than bad ones.
- Please continue to pray for Mark N. He is at home and doing better each day but still needs complete healing from the effects of his illness.

If you have any prayer needs (or praise reports), please let me know by email or text: Pastor Mike, 909-229-1888 or yea4god@gmail.com

Church Mailing Address: 3123 Harrison Street, Riverside, 92503

Church Meeting Place: 2260 Griffin Way, Corona 92879 (At the Ayres Hotel)

Prayer: 9:00 a.m.

Service Time: 10:00 a.m.

For His Glory!

Pastor Mike

Mike Yeamans

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Nothing but God exists for its own sake"

"God magnifies his greatness by making himself the supreme treasure of our hearts, even at great cost to himself (Rom 8:32), and so serving us in the very act of exalting his glory." (John Piper)