

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: It's Fine, I'm Fine,
Everything is Fine
Message: God Hears Your Prayers
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: July 11/12, 2020

Prayer is dependent on two things – the character of God and the condition of my heart. So far in our current series, we have seen that God is good, loving and utterly trust-worthy. He proved this beyond any question by sending His son to rescue us from our sin and brokenness:

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:6-8 (NLT)

God's character is solid. The next area is the condition of my heart. The word *heart* refers to the control center of my life, where my thoughts, values, emotions and choices originate. Read the following verses, and as you do, ask God to speak to you through them:

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

⁹ How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. ¹⁰ I have tried hard to find you— don't let me wander from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:9-11 (NLT)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT)

If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Psalms 66:18 (NLT)

When our heart is aligned with God's (the goal of true worship), we can confidently pray, knowing He will listen and work on our behalf!

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. ⁷ If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (TLB)

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

TLB – The Living Bible

MESSAGE NOTES



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The church is a caring community, a family.
Therefore, we will all work to promote unity.

- In essential issues, we agree with each other
- In non-essential issues, we accept each other
- In all issues, we love each other

prayer (def): talking with God

God's promise to us:

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT)

Effective prayer is dependent on just two things:

The character of God.

The condition of my heart.

⁹ Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: ¹⁰ "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector!' ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' ¹³ But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14 (NLT)

Is there anything blocking my access to God in prayer?

Unconfessed sin to God? To someone else?

Unforgiveness?

Unwillingness to accept God's lead in an area of my life?