

Question Night - May, 2012

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Introduction: Tonight I will be examining some recent questions raised to me.

I. I've been taught that the Bible says that God doesn't listen to the prayer of sinners but we are all sinners. I make mistakes and how am I supposed to know if God hears my prayers or not. Sometimes it's hard to tell if he hears them.

A. God does not hear the prayers of those who do not seek or hear God.

(1 Pt 3:12-13; Psa 34:15-19)

1. These verses are talking about “sinners” as being those who are opening rebelling against God. These people do not have the fellowship or protection of God.

2. God will not respond when they suddenly call upon Him in a day of trouble.

B. God is there to help the penitent Christian in his struggle with sin! **(Heb 12:1-3)**

1. We as Christians are told that if we say we have no sin that we are deceiving ourselves. **(1 Jn 1:10)**

2. We must not enter a practice of sin (sin without repentance). **(1 Jn 3:6-9)**

C. How can I know that God will hear my prayers?

1. When I ask in faith believing his promises! **(1 Jn 1:9; James 1:5-6)**

2. This is not a question of feeling or sensing but one of faith in God’s promise!

II. One question I have is about acts 6. When it says: “therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.” (Acts 6:3 ESV) Is the Spirit referred to the same gift of the Spirit in Acts 2:38? Also if it's actually full of the Spirit in the same way the apostles were then there wouldn't be a need for them to lay hands on them. (Acts 6:6)

A. It is important to let the context tell what a word or phrase means.

1. You have already pointed out how the “gift of the Holy Spirit” in the laying on of hands is not the same “gift” that was given every Christian upon their baptism.

2. Every Christian has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit **(Rom 8:9)** but they did not have the Holy Spirit in the gifts given by the laying on of the apostle’s hands. **(Acts 8:14-18)**

B. In this context to be “full of the Spirit” is to have the Spirit given message implanted in one’s heart. We can do this by being a careful listener and in meditating on what we hear. **(James 1:21-25)**

1. We are commanded to do this! **(Eph 5:18-19)**

2. In this we are also “filled with” God, knowledge, and fruits of righteousness **(Eph 3:19; Phil 1:11; Col 1:9)**

III. I am hearing that some Christians believe that that the 2nd coming of Jesus occurred in 70 AD in the destruction of Jerusalem. How would you answer these brethren?

- A. There will be a literal physical resurrection of all men who ever lived.
 - 1. Paul reasoned with unbelievers that they would be held accountable at the judgment day and the proof of this would be the resurrection of Christ. **(Acts 17:30-31)**
 - 2. Why would the resurrection of Christ have any connection to proof of a future judgment of all men? Consider how Paul develops this reasoning with Christians. **(2 Cor 4:13-14; 1 Cor 6:14; Phil 3:20-21, 1 Jn 3:2)**
 - 3. Is this resurrection a figurative resurrection of a cause?
- B. Did Jesus discuss a literal resurrection and a very different afterlife in His ministry?
 - 1. What was the disagreement with the Sadducees about? **(Lk 20:27, 34-36)**
 - 2. After the resurrection, what would be true of all those who were raised? Is this true today?
 - 3. What was the occasion that Mary discussed the resurrection with Jesus? **(Jn 11:23-26; 40-46)**
 - 4. Did Jesus teach a general resurrection for only a small group of people? **(Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15-16)**
 - 5. Is this a personal resurrection that brings personal accountability?
- C. Will all men see and personally experience things at the second coming of Christ?
 - 1. Christians are expecting to see and meet Jesus at His coming. **(1 Jn 3:1-2; 1 Thess 4:13-18)**
 - 2. Since this is connected to Jesus' resurrection, then in what manner will we see Jesus? Is this a past event only applicable to the righteous?
 - 3. Will the unrighteous also see Jesus coming in the clouds? **(Rev 1:5-7)**
 - 4. How is Jesus the "firstborn from the dead?" How was He raised? How will the others be raised?

IV. What does it mean to "speak evil" of brethren (James 4:11)? Is it wrong to point out a fault or talk to another about what another Christian is doing?

- A. One of the greatest tests we will face is how we think and speak of others! In this context we are looking at our own brothers in Christ! **(James 4:11)**
 - 1. καταλαλέω as expressing hostility in speaking *speak (evil) against, slander, revile.*
 - 2. This is the opposite of loving and caring for another. **(Rom 14:15)**
- B. We can speak the truth to our brothers or even speak to another Christian about the weakness of another when it is done in love. Are we trying to help or are we looking down our nose at another? **(1 Cor 13:4-7)**
 - 1. A good test in speaking to others "T.H.I.N.K." **T** - is it True? **H** - is it Helpful? **I** - is it Inspiring? **N** - is it Necessary? **K** - is it Kind?