

Question Series

Session 5

Regarding Sin & Forgiveness

Question 1: If all sin is the same, how are some sins considered an abomination to God? Can any of these sins keep us from getting into Heaven?

(Read: Proverbs 6:16-19) In this passage, the writer describes seven sins. Some consider them to be the “Seven Deadly Sins”. This is not an exhaustive list, but it lists the sins that God hates. Below is the list of sins:

- 1.) “Proud or haughty eyes.” This is the sin of pride.
- 2.) “Lying tongue.” This is the sin of deception. This person distorts reality for their own personal gain.
- 3.) “Hands that shed innocent blood.” This is a person that can’t control their anger. They are full of wrath.
- 4.) “A heart that devises wicked plans.” These people are full of greed. They tend to do things to get their own way.
- 5.) “Feet that are swift in running to evil.” These people love sin. They find pleasure in doing evil things.
- 6.) “A false witness who speaks lies.” This is a person who does not speak truth. They are deceitful.
- 7.) “A man who stirs up dissension among brothers.” This person enjoys causing trouble among family and friends.

Yes, God detests these sins but these are not the only sins God does not like. God hates all sin because Jesus died for all sin. The answer to the question is this, none of the sins above can keep a person out of Heaven. Salvation is available to anyone who will place their faith and trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The evidence of this is found in (Romans 10:9, 13; I John 1:9; Rev. 3:20)

Question 2: The book of Proverbs states that a “drunkard lips cannot enter the gates of Heaven.” Does this refer to a drunkard at death? One who drinks on occasion or a Christian who still is involved in this sin?

There are several verses in Proverbs that speak about the consequences of those that are drunkards. Here are a few: Proverbs 20:1; 23:20-21; and 26:9. But again, being a drunkard does not keep a person out of heaven as long as they are willing to repent and place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Even for those that drink that are Christians, like any sin, God wants us to confess it and turn from it. Forgiveness is a prayer away. The guide to how we should handle sin is found in James 4:17 (Read passage).

Prayer & Satan

Question 1: Can Satan hear our prayers?

The answer is yes. He can only hear them when they are out loud. He can't hear our silent prayers. Scripture never states that Satan can read our mind. Scriptures never state that an angel is all knowing and if a holy angel is not all knowing neither can a fallen one either. Satan is high skilled at predicting human behavior because of his years of practice. He can anticipate what you might do or how you might react in a given situation without knowing your thoughts. So, should we avoid praying out loud? The answer is no. (Read: I John 4:4) In God we have power, for He who is in you (Jesus) is greater than he (Satan) that is in the world.

Question 2: Can Satan block or intercept our prayer?

The answer is no. Our prayers can only be hindered by our self-defeating doubt and sinful lifestyles. James 1:5-8 talks about faithless prayers that are powerless and ineffective. Basically, Satan cannot hurt anyone without God's permission. (Read: Job 1:6-12) In this passage, God allowed Satan to attack Job. When Christians enter into sin, they open themselves up to Satan's attack.

Question 3: Can Satan answer our misdirected prayers and give us what is not actually good for us?

The answer is yes and no. He can do it, but not without God's permission. The Bible asserts that God can give people over to deception when they refuse to believe the truth. (Read: II Thessalonians 2:9-12)

Conclusion: Satan will answer misdirected prayers, give signs and do anything to move us away from God. Therefore, be alert and listen to God's Holy Word. In humility, desire Christ more than your own ways. (I Peter 5:8)