

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a hand holding a pen, poised to write on an open book. The book's pages are filled with text, which is mostly out of focus. The lighting is soft, creating a contemplative atmosphere. The text 'What Makes Prayer Acceptable?' is superimposed in the center of the image in a large, dark, serif font.

What Makes Prayer Acceptable?

We invite you to upcoming

GOSPEL MEETING

Bob Myhan
of Macon, GA
will be our speaker

OCTOBER 1-6, 2023

Overview of the Bible	Sunday,	10:50 am
Jesus: God & Man	Sunday,	6:00 pm
The Arrest and Trials of Jesus	Monday,	7:30 pm
The Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus	Tuesday,	7:30 pm
Women at the Tomb of Jesus	Wednesday,	7:30 pm
The Post Resurrection Appearances of Jesus	Thursday,	7:30 pm
The Necessity of the Ascension of Jesus	Friday,	7:30 pm

For more information, see www.roseavenue.org

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a hand holding a pen, poised to write on an open book. The book's pages are filled with text, which is mostly illegible due to the shallow depth of field and soft lighting. The overall mood is contemplative and focused. The text 'What Makes Prayer Acceptable?' is superimposed in the center of the image in a dark, serif font.

What Makes Prayer Acceptable?

What is prayer?

- Prayer is how we communicate to God
- It is directly commanded –
Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17
Philippians 4:6, Romans 12:12
- A key factor in the lives of many Bible examples
- A frequent part of the life of Jesus –
Luke 5:16, 11:1

What is prayer?

- Prayer is as “spiritual indicator”
- **7 days without prayer makes one weak!**
- Clearly, we can see that God wants us to pray often
- But what makes prayer acceptable?

What makes prayer unacceptable

- Acceptable prayer implies there are ways for prayer to be unacceptable
- When we refuse to obey – **Prov. 28:9**
 - How can we ask God to hear us, when we refuse to obey Him?
- Unrepentant lives - **Isaiah 59:1-2,**
cf. Acts 3:19

What makes prayer unacceptable

- Self-righteousness – **Luke 18:9-14**
- Outward show – **Matthew 6:5**
- Vain repetitions – **Matthew 6:7**
- Refusing to forgive – **Matthew 6:14-15, 18:35, cf. Matthew 5:23-24**

What makes prayer unacceptable

- Asking amiss – **James 4:3**
- When we doubt – **James 1:6-8**
- Neglecting our spouse – **1 Peter 3:7**
- The “sinner’s prayer” –
John 9:31

What makes prayer Acceptable

- Consider the antithesis of many of the above
- Approaching God with reverence –
Matthew 6:9, cf. Leviticus 10:3
Psalm 89:7, Hebrews 12:28-29
- Asking in faith – **James 1:6**
Hebrews 11:6, 10:23

What makes prayer Acceptable


- With humility – **Luke 18:9-14, James 4:6, Matthew 6:5-6**
- According to His will – **1 John 5:14-15; cf. Romans 12:1-2, Gal. 2:20 Matthew 6:10, cf. 26:39, 42**
- With repentance & confession – **1 John 1:7-9, Acts 8:22, cf. Psalm 51:1-4**

What makes prayer Acceptable

- With righteous living – **1 Peter 3:12 (Psa. 34:15), James 5:16, 1 Timothy 2:8, cf. Titus 2:14**
- Sincerity – thoughtful, genuine
**James 5:16, Psalm 145:18
Psalm 26:1-3, Jeremiah 17:10**

What makes prayer Acceptable

- With importunity (urgency, pleadings) – **Luke 18:1-8, cf. 2 Corinthians 12:7-8**, Jesus in the garden - **Luke 22:41-44, Matthew 26:44, Hebrews 5:7**
- Through Jesus – **Ephesians 5:20, 2:18, John 14:13, 1 John 2:1, etc.**

A hand holding a pen over an open book, with a glowing light source in the background. The text is centered over the image.

Are your prayers
acceptable to God?

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer over an open book. The person is wearing a dark blue suit jacket with gold buttons. The background is dark and out of focus, with some light flares. The text "Let us pray!" is centered over the image.

Let us pray!