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CROSS A Message from
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Question: If one is not a Christian, will God hear his prayers?

Answer: It depends on the attitude of the person. The Bible says in *Proverbs 28:9*, “*One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.*” If one is not willing to do God’s will, why should he expect God to hear him? He won’t! However, if a sinner shows he has the humility to repent of his sins and submit to God’s will, then I believe his prayer can be heard.

As a case in point, in *Acts 10*, we read about Cornelius who was not a Christian, but who prayed. An angel told him his prayer was heard, but that he must call for Simon Peter to come to his house, who would then tell him what to do to be saved. Cornelius did as the angel said, and when Peter came and told him to be baptized, Cornelius immediately obeyed.

From this, we learn that prayer is not a substitute for obedience. No matter how often Cornelius prayed, he still had to obey the gospel by being baptized. The same is true for sinners today. We can’t live any way we want and then, simply ask God and expect Him to save us. No, prayer without obedience is pointless. *1st John 3:22* says, “*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*”

--Steve McCaslin