

## Introduction

1. The title of this sermon comes to us from the words of a man who was born blind but received his sight from Jesus ([Jn. 9:31](#); cf. [Jn. 9](#)).
  - a. The sense of “heareth not” is to listen to (or pay attention to by listening) or regard and in this context the prayers of sinners.
  - b. This is contrasted with the person that is a worshipper of God and does His will.
2. [John 9:31](#) prompts several other relevant questions as it relates to prayer:
  - a. How did this man who was healed of his blindness know that this statement was true?
  - b. Are there any exceptions to this statement?

## I. Old Testament Evidence

1. Evidence from the Psalms.
  - a. [Psalm 34:15-16](#).
  - b. [Psalm 66:18](#).
2. Evidence from the Proverbs.
  - a. [Proverbs 15:8](#).
  - b. [Proverbs 15:29](#).
  - c. [Proverbs 28:9](#).
3. Evidence from the History.
  - a. King Saul ([1 Sam. 14:35-37](#), [28:6](#)).
4. Evidence from the Prophets.
  - a. [Isaiah 1:15](#).
  - b. [Zechariah 7:9-14](#).
5. From all of this evidence, we conclude the man who was healed of his blindness made the statement that he made.
  - a. He also provided additional evidence ([Jn. 9:32-33](#)).

## II. Exceptions?

1. A basic principle of interpretation is needed.
  - a. The Bible will not contradict itself as it is truth ([Jn. 17:17](#); [1 Jn. 2:21](#)).

- b. Whatever exception we think we have found can be analyzed in the light of plain passages to come to the correct interpretation.
- 2. What about Cornelius in [Acts 10-11](#)?
  - a. Observe he was a devout man who feared God with all his house ([Ac. 10:2](#)).
  - b. His prayers and alms had come up for a memorial before God ([Ac. 10:4](#)).
  - c. An angel of God ([Ac. 10:3](#)) stated that Cornelius' prayer was heard and his alms had come in remembrance in the sight of God ([Ac. 10:31](#)).
  - d. Cornelius and his household were the first Gentile converts which fulfilled prophecy ([Am. 9:11-12](#) with [Ac. 15:7-17](#)).
  - e. We conclude that Cornelius and his household had the need to obey the gospel and received the instructions to do so through the apostle Peter.
  - f. Today, we have the apostles' doctrine ([Ac. 2:42](#)) and the obligation to teach others ([Mt. 28:19-20](#); [Mk. 16:15](#)).

### **III. Application**

- 1. False religious groups are in direct opposition to God's will ([1 Cor. 1:10](#); [Mt. 15:13](#)).
- 2. Alien sinners are not in the proper relationship with God in order to pray acceptably and especially to pray for others.
- 3. The church of Christ is the **only** institution today instructed to pray for others ([1 Tim. 2:1-2](#), [3:15](#)).
  - a. Even so, our prayers can be hindered if we are not doing right (cf. [1 Pt. 3:7](#)).

### **Conclusion**

- 1. Prayer is a privilege for members of the church of Christ.
  - a. Let us use this privilege more often!
- 2. God has certain conditions which must be met in order for prayers to be heard.
  - a. God is righteous and holy and demands the same from us.