



## BIBLE TALK

**Mike King**

Question: Does God answer an alien sinner's (non-Christian) prayer?

Answer: I do not have the right to legislate in regards to what God will or will not hear. The scriptures give us some thoughts on the subject. I heard a quote once regarding this question; "God starts listening to us at the point we start listening to Him."

The answer has to be no if asking for forgiveness, Sonship, or Eternal Life. These are promised on other conditions than prayer (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16). Forgiveness is only available in Christ (Eph. 1:7; 2 Tim. 2:10; Gal. 3:26-27). To be "in Christ," one must be "born again" or experienced the "new birth" (Jn. 3:3-5). It is futile to pray for pardon contrary to His will (Jas. 4:3; Prov. 28:9).

The following needs to be kept in mind: 1). Every blessing needed by the alien sinner can be obtained on specified conditions, not including prayer nor has salvation ever been promised on the condition of prayer. 2). Saul of Tarsus is the only New Testament example of an alien sinner praying for forgiveness. Divine direction led Ananias to Saul for instructions to him to "Arise and be baptized, and wash away you're sins, **calling on the name of the Lord**" (Acts 22:16). It seems as if Cornelius is not an exception for he was acceptably worshipping God under an arrangement for non-Jews and up to this time the gospel had not been offered to the Gentiles. 3). Our Lord does not intercede with the Father for alien sinners. He is able to save those that "come to God through Him" (Heb. 7:25). To "draw near" is to come in humble obedience to His will. (4). God is not the Father of alien sinners, only His obedient children (1 Tim. 3:14-15). John records, "*Now we know that God does not hear sinners: but if anyone is a worshipper of God, and does His will, He hears him*" (Jn. 9:31). He is far from the wicked, but hears the prayers of the righteous (Prov. 15:29). Become God's child and He will recognize your voice and answer (Acts 22:16).

*For inquiries or free Bible study by mail, contact:*

***New Albany Church of Christ***

***P.O. Box 148, 511 Hwy 15 S ~ New Albany, MS 38652  
nacoc.us ~ 662-534-4649 ~ [bibletalk.mlk@gmail.com](mailto:bibletalk.mlk@gmail.com)***