

## Prayer With A Guaranteed “No” Answer

Introduction: In John’s first letter, he has stated the wonder of what it means to be considered a child of God. He has made it clear what our attitude is to be toward sin: Aspire to total avoidance. What if we have a brother who doesn’t “buy in” to that concept? Should we pray for him? Let’s look at 1 John 5:13-17.

1. There are many things for which we can pray that are within the “God’s will”.
  - A. God wants us to produce the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23
  - B. God wants us to have the necessities of life. Matt. 6:31-34
  - C. God doesn’t want us to be “tempted beyond what we are able to bear”  
1 Cor. 10:13
  - D. There are other things, but that’s enough for our purposes.
  
2. There are things that can be obstacles to my personal prayers.
  - A. Marital Discord – 1 Pet. 3:7
  - B. Unattended broken relationships – Matt. 5:23-24
  - C. Asking with the wrong motives – James 4:3
  - D. Not showing mercy – Matt. 6:14-15 (See James 2:13)
  
3. But there is sin for which the prayer of forgiveness is not the answer.
  - A. Not every sin. John established that in chapter 1:8-10
  - B. Praying for the man in 1 Cor. 5 was not recommended.
  - C. There were limits to helping those mentioned in Hebrews 6.
  - D. In Hebrews 10, we are told about the dangers of willful sin.
  - E. From the context of 1 John – How can we continue in sin and pretend we value the gift of forgiveness? No prayer can get that forgiven.

Conclusion: We must always remember this: the answer to sin always confession and repentance. As long as we are living, there is always hope. There is always forgiveness if we turned to God with a demonstration of our change of heart.