
Objections to Prayer

#'s 5 & 6

THE SECRET KEY TO HEAVEN

THOMAS BROOKS

J. I. Packer

July 22, 1926 – July 17, 2020

On prayer:

“Hot line” it truly is, for though he is Lord of the worlds, he always has time for us; his eye is on everything every moment, yet we always have his full attention whenever we call on him. Marvelous! But have we really taken it in?”



Objection #5: *“I don’t have a place...”*

“I would give a private trade with God, I would exercise myself in secret prayer, but I lack a convenient place to retire into; I lack a private corner in which to unburden my soul to my Father, etc.:

Objection #5: *“I don’t have a place...”*

If He has given us Christ...He most commonly gives a place to pray.

(Romans 8:32)

Objection #5: “*I don’t have a place...*”

Because of Romans 8:32, It is not a lack of place, rather

It is the lack of a heart to pray.

Objection #5: *“I don’t have a place...”*

“Whatever we set our hearts upon, we will find time and place to effect it.”

Gardening

College Football

Facebook

Entertainment

Shopping

Objection #5: *“I don’t have a place...”*

A Christian is free to pray anytime, anywhere.

“Every saint is God’s temple, and he that carries his temple around with him, may go to prayer when [where] he pleases.

St. Augustine

Objection #5: “*I don’t have a place...*”

Did you not in your unregenerate state make use of your entire faculty to find a place to sin?

Could you not find a secret corner to gossip, a bar to indulge drunkenness, or an office to cheat a customer?

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

We would be often in private prayer with God, we would give ourselves up to closet prayer, but no sooner do we shut our doors, than a multitude of infirmities, weaknesses and vanities face us, and rise up against us.

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

Arguably this is the most legitimate objection in the book

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Romans 12:1-2: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

Answer: If this were ultimately fatal to prayer, what man or woman would ever be found in that duty?

(Psalm 130:3: “If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD who could stand?”)

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

“In every good man (regenerate), there are two men, the old man and the new; the one must be daily put on, and the other daily put off.”

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

Scripture is full of sinful Christians who prayed down the heavens:

Jonah

Elijah

David

Moses

Paul (added)

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

When He hears our prayers, it is not for our sakes but for His own sake and His Son’s sakes, and His glory’s sake.

- *It is to God’s glory to pass by our infirmities.*
- *Saints are His children, and He is a compassionate Father.*
- *Saints are Christ’s body, what man will cut off his nose because there is filth in it?*
- *Saint’s are Christ’s purchase, His possession, His inheritance.*
- *Saint’s are in a marriage covenant with God.*

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

“Our infirmities cannot make God’s promises void which He stand ready to hear their prayers.”

“His hearing does not depend on our sanctification, but upon Christ’s intercession and what we are in Him, both beloved and accepted.”

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

The more infirmities and weaknesses hang upon us, the more cause we have to keep close and constant to our closet duties.

The more the remedy is neglected, the more the disease is strengthened.

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

Thomas Brooks ends this discussion on with three sets of comparisons and contrasts to illustrate his point and show how this varies by degrees.

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

Contracted Indisposition

Through some grievous sin, guilt plagues you because you sinned against the light. We thus shy away from God’s light and holiness.

God will indeed remove our guilt.

Involuntary Indisposition

Example: A sick man who would walk but cannot.

God will in mercy pardon this and will (hopefully) remove.

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

Total Indisposition

No mind to pray at all evidences no life of the Spirit present.

You must wait upon the Lord for the new birth.

Partial Indisposition

We have some (fervor, closeness, etc.) but not as before.

Will the Lord not pardon it and fan it into flame again?

Objection #6: *“When I pray sin arises in my mind”*

*Transient, accidental,
occasional Indisposition*

*True in the best of saints and will
work off in degrees (as we walk
with Christ.)*

*Constant and Permanent
Indisposition*

*As in the case where there is no
heart to pray, there is no
regeneration.*

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On prayer:

“When...we find ourselves so muddle-headed, dead-hearted, and tongue-tied in prayer that “we do not know how to pray as we ought,” then our very desire to pray as we should and our grief that we are not doing so shows that the Spirit is himself making effective intercession for us in our hearts (Romans 8:26) which is as reassuring as it is mysterious, and as thrilling as it is amazing.

