

*Why does it appear that prayers to other gods get answered?*

Believing in false gods is forbidden (Ex 20:1–5). Those who do not know the true and living God (2 Thess 1:8) will be punished (v. 9).

Believers should not fret when the wicked seem to (Jer 44:15–19) prosper (Ps 37:7, 73:3, Jer 5:28, 12:1).

Christians are warned: keep no company with (1 Co 5:11), flee from (1 Co 10:14), have no fellowship with (1 Co 10:19, 20), keep from (1 Jn 5:21), testify against (Ac 14:15) and turn from (1 Thess 1:9) idolaters.<sup>1</sup>

They will not inherit the kingdom of God. The apostle Paul said, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God (1 Co 6:9–10).

A deceived individual (1 Co 3:18; Jas 1:22) may feel connected to his false gods (2 Co 11:14) because of Satan’s trickeries (Lk 4:6–8, Re 12:9 ); but it is the Creator of the heavens and the earth that he must seek (Jn 3:7) while he is near (Is. 55:6).

When one is headed in the same direction as Satan, he is met with little conflict. It is only after he becomes a Christian—he stops, turns around and heads in another direction (Acts 9:35)—that troubles begin (Jn 16:1–3). The world is friendly to its own (Lk 4:6–8, Jn 15:19) but it treats Christians with contempt (Gal 4:29, Jn 15:19).

Doing well according to world standards is no great prize (Php 3:13-14) whereas seeking God and his interests (Mt 6:33) is worthwhile (1 Ti 6:6-11).

After justification (Ac 13:38, 39) one can do a good thing (Mt 3:8) and receive the Lord’s blessings (Ro 8:34, He 8:6–13).

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson’s quick reference topical Bible index (p. 304). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.