

## ***A TIME FOR REFLECTION***

[Pastor Gene Henderson (edits by Pastor)]

This one is a struggle. Not how to get God to answer our prayers, but how to answer His.

*Does God listen when we talk to Him?*

From time to time that's a question we all ask. What drives our question is that *we usually talk to God when we want or need something*. And when that need or desire is not met, *we wonder if God is listening*. Do our individual lives matter to God? For most people, that's a legitimate question. For those who do not believe in God, the question is unnecessary. For those who are uncertain if there's a God, the question becomes mystical. For those who believe there is a Supreme Being but that he is detached and uninvolved, the question is irrelevant.

But researchers tell us that 60-70% of the US population believes in a "*personal*" God, a God with whom humans can personally interact. So let's go there.

When our prayers are unanswered, that creates follow-on problems because how could our needs and desires be unimportant? We know God has a lot of us to deal with (billions), but He's God. Plus, He's got angels. So, we take a breath and think, *maybe I just haven't been good enough. Or Maybe He expects me to make my own way in the world. I shouldn't be bothering Him with my problems*. Sometimes we deal with those thoughts maturely. We know we don't always give our children what they ask for. We don't always rescue them from trouble either – and we have reasons they don't grasp. But sometimes life upends us. Sometimes our prayers are not selfish wishes or low-level needs. Sometimes they are panic prayers. 9-1-1 prayers. Foxhole prayers.

*"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (Matthew 27:46)

If Jesus could ask that question, so can we. The answer comes in two parts.

1. First, Jesus talked with God, communicated, and conversed. Rather than asking God to help Him accomplish His own dreams, He sought to accomplish God's dreams. He built a relationship with God based on mutual goals.
2. Second, when he struggled with God's plans, He said, "*not as I will, but as You will*". (Matthew 26:36)

Yes, God listens when we talk with Him. Next question: *do we actually talk with Him?*

# ***Welcome!***

## ***September 23, 2018***



*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."*

### **SERVICES**

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity In Prayer: 6:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;

Kid's Club & Youth

Prayer ½ hour before services

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



of God!

**Sunday Evening Prayer** – our hour of prayer at 6:00 PM. Join us as we ask God for direction and revival.

**Wednesday Bible Study** – Romans and Kid's Club. Come and learn about the Word

**Snacks For Children** – There is a basket in the foyer for donations of snacks for our children's programs. Thank you!

**Promoting Our Church** – in order to make it easier to advertise our church one on one, Debbie DeVries designed and produced a one page flyer to introduce New Life to neighbors and friends. Please stop by the table in the foyer and take the number you need to help grow our church. God bless our efforts!

**Baby Shower** – today following our morning service we will be celebrating the soon to be birth of the Weah's, Ruth and Steven's third child. Please join us in the basement for lunch and great fellowship..

**Ladies Meeting** – October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at New Hope Ministries, 334 Second Ave., Albany. Please let Caroline or Leah know if you plan to attend so we can RSVP.

**Teen Challenge Banquet** – October 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM at the Albany Hilton Hotel, 40 Lodge Street. We have purchased a table with 8 tickets for sale at \$50.00 per person. We need those who would like to go to sign up on the table in the foyer so we can plan if we need to purchase a second table.

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**THERE'S A SNAKE BEHIND THE HEDGE**

**TEXT:** Ecclesiastes 10:8

**I. GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ ARE HEDGED PEOPLE** Job 1:1, 8-10

There is something to be said about \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God.

Job was \_\_\_\_\_ on all side! Psalm 34:7; Proverbs 18:10; Isaiah 44:8; 2 Samuel 22:2-4

I've got news from the Throne this morning, we are not in this \_\_\_\_\_, and God is on our \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. GOD'S HEDGES ARE \_\_\_\_\_ HEDGES** – Proverbs 22:28

I see a subtle movement going on in this day and age, a moving of the \_\_\_\_\_ placed by God and little wonder, we find ourselves in the day of battle, \_\_\_\_\_ and overcome!

Proverbs 22:6; 23:13-14; Titus 2:6-8

We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ those who are watching us to do \_\_\_\_\_ from what we do. 1 Samuel 3:11-14

Our only \_\_\_\_\_ on earth are our children. Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 5:22-33

The \_\_\_\_\_ is a part of the hedge, have it God's way, do it God's way and be \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 10:25; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 24:35; Psalm 119:11, 165; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Timothy 4:1-5

**III. \_\_\_\_\_ IN BREAKING GOD'S HEDGE**

Numbers 32:23; Proverbs 28:13; Ezekiel 18:20; Galatians 6:7; Romans 6:23; Judges 16:20; Daniel 5:3-6, 22-31; Genesis 39:9; 41:41-43; Numbers 21:5-9

\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_! John 3:14-15