

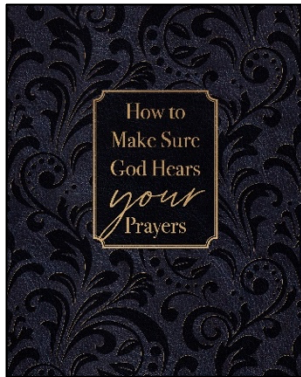
# BroadStreet

P U B L I S H I N G

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## HOW TO MAKE SURE GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS

Enter God's Holy Presence and Receive His Promised Blessings Through the Fear of the Lord



Minneapolis, MN: When someone dies, we often question where that person has gone in the afterlife. We wonder if the person was a believer in Christ, but another important question we should ask is whether that person feared the Lord.

Many define the fear of God as reverential awe. They assume God hears every prayer, and moral goodness will get them into heaven. But God requires true repentance and trust in Jesus, which are only possible when the law exposes our sin. The Bible says we should have a trembling knowing that our sins create a separation from God and His blessings (Psalm 2:11), including eternity in heaven.

In *How to Make Sure God Hears Your Prayers*, author and minister **Ray Comfort** guides readers to a deeper knowledge of the fear of the Lord. Comfort reminds that the same God with the power to judge sinners also offers us love, mercy, and redemption. Comfort further shares personal stories, biblical illustrations, and real-life evangelistic conversations to encourage our need for godly fear of the Lord. Featured topics include:

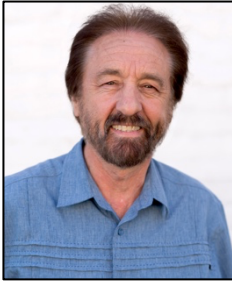
- **Obey God, Not the World:** The law of God is our reference for good and evil. Without the law and the fear of the Lord, people believe in their own righteousness and follow their own deficient moral compass, which leads them away from God and His blessings.
- **Living with Godly Fear:** Many people today, including Christians, wonder why we need to fear the Lord if He's our loving comforter. However, fear of the Lord is what keeps us from our desire to sin and allows us to glorify God and walk in the Spirit.
- **Salvation Requires More Than a Belief:** Many believe God will fix their problems if they live a "good" life without realizing that Scripture warns us that salvation requires true repentance and obedience (Hebrews 2:1-3). We're called to reveal the reality of sin so people can see God's true mercy and turn to Him.
- **Receive the Blessing of Prayer:** God promises that in our obedience to Him, our prayers will be heard and answered. Even if we don't receive the outcome we desire, God always responds with His purposes in mind, and we are called to trust His ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). God Almighty has graciously invited us into a conversation with Him.
- **Rest in God's Promises:** God blesses those who fear Him with deliverance, honor, contentment, and mercy. Those who fear Him know He is always in control and live with peace and joy despite their circumstances. They have assurance God goes with them and hears their prayers.

"Every day millions pray believing that God hears and will respond to their prayers," says Comfort, "but Scripture warns us that sin can influence God's attention" (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1-2). "If we want open communication with the Lord, we must do our best to repent of our sins and blend our prayers with the fear of the Lord...a fear reflected in the love as demonstrated in the cross."

~more~

The fear of God is a blessing that drives us to repentance, replacing the selfishness of our sinful hearts with a thirst for mercy and grace. Only when we understand God for who He is—both our loving Father and powerful judge—will we see the gospel as the good news it truly is and humbly obey God’s commands in light of his stunning glory.

### About the Author



**Ray Comfort** is the Founder and CEO of Living Waters and the best-selling author of more than one hundred books. He is the co-host of an award-winning television program that airs in 190 countries and the producer of award-winning movies that have been viewed by millions ([www.FullyFreeFilms.com](http://www.FullyFreeFilms.com)). His YouTube channel has over 230,000,000 views and over one million subscribers. He lives in Southern California with his wife, Sue, and has three grown children. For more information, visit [LivingWaters.com](http://LivingWaters.com). His social media handles are: Twitter: @RayComfort and Facebook: @official.Ray.Comfort

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### Suggested Interview Questions:

- 1) Ray, what prompted you to write *How to Make Sure God Hears Your Prayers*? Most people believe God hears their prayers regardless of their spiritual walk, but is this true?
- 2) What does it mean to fear the Lord? Why should we fear Him when He loves us?
- 3) Contemporary thinkers often do not want to address the consequences of sins. How can we address these consequences while providing the gospel of hope and love?
- 4) You write that the fear of the Lord is a way of life. How can this encourage us when we face temptation and sin?
- 5) How does our response to sin reflect our fear of the Lord? How should we respond to those we see falling into sin without being judgmental or hypocritical?
- 6) You write about Judas having a seared conscience. What is that? Can it happen to believers? How does our conscience relate to the fear of the Lord?
- 7) Why is Scripture vital for a proper understanding of God’s will and for recognizing the blessings for those who fear the Lord?
- 8) What four promises come with fearing God? What do they reveal about him?
- 9) What do you say to those who pray but do not feel God hears or answers their prayers?
- 10) Where can we learn more about your ministry, Living Waters?

## Notable Quotes:

The fear of the Lord is the only effective poison that puts sin to death. But authorities within contemporary Christianity (many church leaders and pastors) have outlawed it. Instead of preaching the holiness of God and his consequential wrath and then pleading with sinners to flee to the cross, their message is insipid and unbiblical, irrelevant and ineffective. Unable to find the truth within many churches, professing believers now find themselves alone in their battle with a sin-infested world, a sin-loving flesh, a plague of demons, and a devious devil—who “walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8) (pp. 41–42).

Our battle isn't against flesh and blood but against spiritual powers that often work in subtle ways (see Ephesians 6:12). The enemy would love for us to be friends with the world even though doing so makes us enemies of God (James 4:4). He wants us to compromise the words God has entrusted us to preach—to soften the message and not terrorize good people with archaic talk of the fear of the Lord. And the world will heap rewards on those who tickle ears with talk of anything other than sin, righteousness, and judgment....But when God, in his great mercy, opens our eyes to understand, we see his loving-kindness everywhere (pp. 74–75, 77).

The image of a God who smiles at sin, whose patience is infinite and inexhaustible, only exists in the minds of those who lack the fear of the Lord. They choose to ignore the knowledge of God given to us in Holy Scripture. It is just as God tells us in Proverbs: “They hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD” (1:29). But if we read the Scriptures carefully, we will see that the fear of the Lord routinely accompanied divine visitation....God has power greater than the human mind can comprehend, but this fact is often overlooked today (pp. 121–22).

Having a right understanding of God puts us in our rightful place. We are the lowly creature; he is the Creator. We are temporary; he is eternal. And he holds our life's breath in his hands. Perhaps the greatest lesson we can learn in life is that we cannot achieve anything without him: “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for *without Me you can do nothing*” (John 15:5, emphasis added). Without God, we can do nothing. All of our achievements—no matter how significant they may seem—won't amount to a hill of beans in the light of eternity....There is only one everlasting kingdom (p. 180).

The law exposes evil, and that should result in the fear of the Lord. And it is “by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil” (Proverbs 16:6). We need the fear of the Lord to realize Jesus is the only way to a real relationship with the Creator of the universe. While some people struggle with the idea that there is only one way to enter into this relationship, this thought should stir our hearts toward thankfulness: in his loving mercy, God has provided us the Way. Because of Jesus, we can come near to God, who listens, provides, and blesses. There is no greater news than this. And in a hurting, sinful world, none more urgent (p. 206).

The reason people's hearts fail them is that they don't believe anyone is in control. If they could take control, they wouldn't be fearful. But those who fear God know that he is *always* in control. He's never taken by surprise or thrown into confusion....The same God who will fulfill his promise to judge the world will fulfill his promise to bless those who fear the Lord. The choice is ours. We can disobey and let sin rule in our lives, or we can trust God in obedience and come to him in prayer (pp. 215, 218).

It is the fear of God, which comes to us when we rightly understand God and his nature, that sets us free to receive his mercy. Once in Christ, it is the fear of God that keeps us walking in the Spirit and abiding in Jesus—and our lives bear fruit to the glory of the Father (John 15:1–8; Galatians 5:22–23). When people fear God, they keep their hearts free from sin, by abiding in Christ...and when people—no matter who they are or what they've done—come to the Father fearing him and trusting in Jesus, they are heard by God (pp. 228–29).