

2-12-23

## **When to Stop Praying: When You're Substituting Prayer for Reconciliation**

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### **Question #1: In what scenario should we stop praying?**

**Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV):** "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."

**Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV):** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

**1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV):** ... "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."

***An offense between us and others constructs a fence between us and God.***

### **Question #1: In what scenario should we stop praying?**

**Answer: We should stop praying when we're substituting prayer for reconciliation.**

### **Question #2: Are we responsible for rectifying every grudge, offense, anger, and disagreement others have with us?**

**Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV):** "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."

**Matthew 10:22 (NIV):** "You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."

### **Question #2: Are we responsible for rectifying every grudge, offense, anger, and disagreement others have with us?**

**Answer: No.**

### **Question #3: When are we responsible for going and being reconciled?**

**Matthew 5:23-24 (AMP):** "So if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and *while* there you remember that your brother has something [such as a grievance or legitimate complaint] against you, leave your offering there at the altar and go. First make peace with your brother, and then come and present your offering."

**Question #3: When are we responsible for going and being reconciled?**

**Answer: When the issue someone has against us is owing to a sin or error on our part.**

**Question #4: How do we go and be reconciled to others?**

**Step #1: Be sensitive**

**Step #2: Be prompt**

**Matthew 5:25 (NIV):** "Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison."

**Step #3: Be realistic**

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIV):** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

**Romans 12:18 (NIV):** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.