

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
*Speaker, Robert Emerson*  
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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**"...So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."**

— Luke 8:18

**Servants during October:**

**Songleader:** Peter (3), Stanley (10), Larry (17), David (24), Peter (31)

**Reading:** Mike B

**Announcements:** Robert

**Table:** David, Peter, Larry, Mike M

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (6), Stanley (13), Kris (20), Larry (27)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Robert (3), Larry (10), Kris (17), Marty (24), Stanley (31)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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 Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

*"Examine everything carefully..." -1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB*

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## Hearing One's Echo

*By Robert Turner*

Many preachers are amazed at what some hearers "get" from their effort. It is often foreign to their intent, and sometimes defies explanation. I said, "The Holy Spirit dwells in us, in the same way the Father and Son dwell in us;" and a listener thought I said there was no Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Godhead. Or, we present a lesson on the nature and make-up of the church; and someone thinks this is a new and startling way to say the church is unimportant. A preacher must constantly seek to improve on his means of conveying ideas, but the hearers could also do with a bit of self-examination.

We "hear" through the mechanics of the ear; but our understanding, or the mental impression we "get" may be greatly influenced by previous experiences which tend to "classify" and

interpret the sermon. Alabama saints "hear" with their own sectional background, which is vastly different from that of the west coast cities. A lesson welcomed in Texas as a warning against the encroachment of institutional influence may seem too "old line Sommerism" in Missouri or Ohio. Older people, especially in the rural south, "hear" with the Baptist in mind; while younger people ask why so much preaching must be unrelated to the actual problems of religion in their current lives.


Our controversial history has also geared us to reactionary "hearing" and preaching. Perhaps older men like myself (what am I saying) who have debated Faith Only, Holy Spirit, etc., tend to hear "weakness" along those lines—because we know what former

opponents would do with some of the statements we read and hear these days. Younger men, who have not and may never meet such teachers of error have a tendency to cast all this aside as “unnecessary in the first place.” We should be patient with the sincere young man who is testing his studies against current problems; and he would do well to appreciate value in lessons learned the hard way, in the battles of yesterday.

There is far too much haste in cataloging brethren by the way we “hear” their statement—without taking into consideration their background and the setting in which they spoke or wrote. It is one thing to point out error, or even to show that consistent application of that error would produce a certain end; and quite another thing to assert that the author accepts all consequences. One does not have to join the “Jesus People” movement in order to advocate simple, sincere worship of God free

from “traditional hypocrisy;” nor is a long-established practice in worship necessarily “hypocritical.” We need not ascribe to the abuses of the “Guardian of Truth” journal in order to teach the true nature of the church. One may work for better government as a Citizen without joining protestors intent on overthrowing law by revolt. One is not necessarily a “Sommerite” because he sees error in the professional “Pastor” system, or questions the practice of some school.

Maybe the “point” we thought we heard was just following a groove we dug for it. We challenge the musical taste of one who plays our own song.

—via Plain Talk, October 1971 

*This article was written 50 years ago, and some of the references may not be easily understood if one is not aware of the history of the church; but the author's point is timeless—we need to be aware of our own history as we evaluate what others say.*

# What Are We Expecting From Our Prayers?

By Roger Shouse

We pray because prayer works! James writes: “The effectual prayer of a righteous man can accomplish

much,” Jas 5:16. If God never listened, or if God never answered our prayers “Yes,” then why pray?

There would be no motive to pray. We would say, “It just doesn’t do any good.” But we know better. All of us can be thankful for the numerous prayers answered in our lives. Prayer works! God is moved by the prayers of His people.

But, what are we expecting from our prayers? The simple answer would be, “We are expecting God to answer them.” Thus, we pray in faith that He will respond.

Sometimes, however, I feel that some look at prayer as the “magical fix-all” to our problems. We make a mess of our marriage and then in desperation pray about our home and think God will now make it right. We mess up our health by poor eating habits and a lack of exercise and then lay in a hospital bed praying for our health to return. We think the church will grow just because “we have prayed for that.”


It seems that in all of this, we are expecting God to right all the wrongs, fix all the mistakes, and make everything fine simply because we have prayed about it. Now this is not questioning the power of God but it is essential that we understand our roles and

responsibilities and our need to work with Him.

***We Find Ourselves in a Mess Financially!*** This happens because we spend instead of save. It will take more than words to right the wrongs of unwise decisions.

***We Find Ourselves in a Troubled Marriage!*** Perhaps because of things like gossiping, nagging, dishonesty, and negativity, we have made a mess of our relationship with our spouse. A change of hearts and a renewed dedication are essential to turning that relationship around. God will not “fix it” without the cooperation of those “in it.”

***We Find Ourselves in a Stagnant Local Church!*** It is stagnant because of indifference. Such a church cannot grow by the members merely saying a prayer and then waiting with arms folded for something to happen. Obviously, God expects cooperation from us.

Whether financial or familial, are we to expect that all one has to do to fix the mess is pray and everything will be fine? Absolutely not! There are consequences to our choices and responsibilities that rest upon our shoulders. God will do His part but... we must do ours! 

## *Remember in Prayer*

**Robert** is still not feeling well; **Buddy** continues to have health issues, as well. **Shirley** wasn’t feeling well earlier this week, either.

Please continually pray for **Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, and Tim** and **Dot Hice, and Joyce Smith.** 