

## God Alone Knows Our Hearts

Prayer is the breathing of the soul. Conscious of our guilt and weakness, we daily reach out to the throne of grace in heaven for pardon and help. Although God is exalted above the heavens in majesty and holiness, yet He is merciful and close to the humble. Indeed, He knows every one of His children; God knows our heart.

During the dedication of the temple, King Solomon prayed to the Lord God, “Whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men” (1 Kings 8:38-39).

Our God is the true and living God; to Him alone we lift our hands and pray. He *alone* knows our hearts. There is no-one else who knows us like that. “I am he that searches the minds and hearts” (Revelation 2:23).

Sadly, human tradition has obscured this simple truth; it undermined the confident trust that should characterize the people of God. The practice of praying to someone other than God was unknown in the apostolic church but it is now very popular in Christendom.

In his [homily](#) on the feast of the Assumption, Pope Benedict XVI said: “While she lived on this earth she could only be close to a few people. Being in God, who is close to us, actually, ‘within’ all of us, Mary shares in this closeness of God. Being in God and with God, she is close to each one of us, knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, can help us with her motherly kindness and has been given to us, as the Lord said, precisely as a ‘mother’ to whom we can turn at every moment.”

The Pope argues that since Mary is “in God,” she “knows our heart” and “can hear our prayers.” Truly, Mary is “in God” just as every other Christian is also “in God.” For the Bible teaches that “whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he *in God*” (1 John 4:16; see also Colossians 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 John 4:16).

Yet, in spite of the fact that every believer is in God, no Christian shares in divine omnipresence and omniscience. We cannot hear the prayers of multitudes of people, nor are we able to discern the thoughts and intents of every heart.

Choose today to whom you would pray. You may agree with the Pope that Mary knows your heart and is able to hear your prayers from heaven. If you choose to pray to Mary, you must disregard the Scripture which states that God *alone* knows the heart. If, on the other hand, setting aside human inventions and disobeying the Pope, you choose to pray to no-one but God alone, it shows your confident faith in God and the truthfulness of His Word.

As you make your decision, please remember, the Bible declares that *the Lord God alone knows the hearts of all people*.