

# Job 22:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee,  
and thou shalt pay thy vows.

## Analysis

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**Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee**—The verb shama (שָׁמַע) means to hear with intent to respond, not merely auditory reception. Eliphaz promises restored fellowship where prayer receives answer. **Thou shalt pay thy vows** uses shalam (שָׁלַם), meaning to complete, fulfill, or make peace—the root of shalom. Vows (neder, נִדֵּר) were conditional promises made to God, expected to be fulfilled when prayers were answered (Psalm 50:14, 116:14).

The bitter irony: Job's prayers seem unanswered throughout the dialogue, yet God ultimately vindicates him and commands the friends to have Job intercede for them (42:8). Job becomes the one whose prayers God hears, while Eliphaz needs Job's mediation. This foreshadows Christ, the suffering righteous one who intercedes for transgressors (Isaiah 53:12, Hebrews 7:25). Sometimes God's silence during suffering precedes vindication and greater ministry.

## Historical Context

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Vow-making was common in Ancient Near Eastern religion, often conditional ('If you do X, I will do Y'). Israel's vow theology emphasized faithfulness to commitments made to YHWH (Deuteronomy 23:21-23). The later revelation shows God hearing Job's prayer to forgive his friends, demonstrating that the righteous sufferer's intercession carries unique weight.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond when prayers seem unanswered despite faithfulness?
2. What does Job's eventual intercessory role teach about God's purpose in allowing seasons of apparent silence?
3. How should we evaluate our spiritual state when God delays answering prayer?

## Interlinear Text

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תַּעֲתֵּ יר	אֵל לִי	וְיִשְׁמָעֵךְ ה'	וְיִדְבָּר יר
<b>Thou shalt make thy prayer</b>	<b>H413</b>	<b>unto him and he shall hear</b>	<b>thy vows</b>
H6279		H8085	H5088
תִּשְׁלַם:			
<b>thee and thou shalt pay</b>			
H7999			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 58:9** (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

**Psalms 116:1** (Parallel theme): I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

**Psalms 91:15** (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

**Job 33:26** (Prayer): He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness.

**Job 34:28** (Parallel theme): So that they cause the cry of the poor to come unto him, and he heareth the cry of the afflicted.

**Ecclesiastes 5:4** (Parallel theme): When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

**Psalms 116:14** (Parallel theme): I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people.

**Psalms 56:12** (Parallel theme): Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.

**Jonah 2:9** (Parallel theme): But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.