

THINGS THAT HINDER OUR PRAYERS

Text: 1 Peter 3:7

INTRO: Prayer is a privilege that we tend to take for granted. To think, faithful Christians have the opportunity to beseech the ruler of the entire universe, & to know that He hears and cares about our concerns. Surely, we do not want to do anything that would hinder our prayers.

I. INFREQUENCY, Lk 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17; James 4:2

II. WRONG MOTIVES, Mt. 6:5; James 4:3

III. REFUSAL TO HEAR GOD WILL KEEP GOD FROM LISTENING TO US.

Prov 1:24-29 24Because I have called and you refused,
I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,
25Because you disdained all my counsel,
And would have none of my rebuke,
26I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when your terror comes,
And your destruction comes like a whirlwind,
When distress and anguish come upon you.
27When your terror comes like a storm,
**28"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer;
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.**

Prov. 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,
Even his prayer is an abomination.

IV. INIQUITY IN THE HEART WILL HINDER MY PRAYERS.

Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

harbor, dwell on...

Isa 1:13-15 Bring no more futile sacrifices;
Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the
Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies--
I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.
14Your New Moons and your appointed feasts
My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me,

I am weary of bearing them.
15When you spread out your hands,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear.

V. PRIDE & SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS HINDERS PRAYERS.

Luke 18:9-15 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

1 Peter 5:5-6 "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

VI. LACK OF FAITH HINDERS PRAYERS.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

VII. AN UNFORGIVING SPIRIT HINDERS OUR PRAYERS.

Mark 11:25-26 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

VIII. WRONG RELATIONSHIPS IN THE HOME CAN HINDER

OUR PRAYERS.

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

CONCLUSION: The simple solution to all these problems is to repent of whatever is wrong in our lives, heed God's instructions, and confess our sins, 1 John 1:9.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 29, 2001