

Monday Hindrances to Prayer

Sometimes it seems like we pray and nothing happens. In those times it is tempting to say that prayer is just a waste of time and doesn't work. The Bible mentions many things that could be hindering our prayers.

1. Read I Peter 3:7 – Peter mentioned three things in this verse that could hinder prayer. What are they?
2. Whether you are married already or are still waiting, this verse is extremely important, especially for husbands. Those who are not fulfilling their marital responsibilities should not expect to have their prayers answered. According to this verse, what is the solution to this problem?
3. Be sure to know, understand, and be ready to fulfill your responsibilities before you get married, fall in love, or even start dating. It could save you a lot of difficulty in the future! Read Matthew 6:5-6 – Jesus gave another hindrance to prayer in this verse. What is it?
4. This verse describes a person who is insincere in his prayer. He doesn't care about anything else other than being seen and praised. Verse 6 gives the solution to this hindrance. What is it?
5. Jesus is not condemning public prayer. He is, however, condemning the attitude of pride and using "prayer" as a means of gaining attention for yourself. According to verse 6, what will God do for those who are humble in prayer?

Hindrances to prayer are all man-made. None of them are God's fault. If you think your prayers are not being answered, take time to examine your heart. You may be hindered in your prayer by your own fault.

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1. Read Psalm 66:18-20 – According to verse 18, God will not hear me if I do what?
2. The word "regard" gives the idea of a person who values some sin very highly and is not willing to confess it and stop participation in it. Why do you think God would be unwilling to hear our prayers if we value sin?
3. According to verses 19-20, did God hear David's prayer?
4. What can we assume about David's view of his sin at that point in his life?
5. There is a solution to this problem. Read I John 1:9 – What must I do in order for God to hear my prayer?
6. Confessing sin means calling it sin. We must agree with God that what He calls sin is really sin. We don't call it a mistake, a goof, or a struggle. Sin is sin. What does God promise He will do when we do confess our sins?
7. What two words are used to describe God in His work of forgiveness?
8. What sins do you need to confess?

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Wednesday Hindrances to Prayer

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1. Read Proverbs 28:9 – In this verse God described a person whose prayer was an abomination to Him. What kind of person is it?
2. In other words a person who rejects God's Word will not have his prayers answered. God views his prayers as abominable or disgusting. So, if you don't value what God has to say, He's not going to value what you have to say. Describe your attitude toward God's Word.
3. If you go to church and think, "I can't wait until this is over," should you expect to have your prayers to be answered?
4. If someone corrects your behavior as being unbiblical and you think, "Whatever," should you expect to have your prayers to be answered?
5. If you don't take time on a consistent basis to read God's Word, should you expect to have your prayers to be answered?
6. The solution is simple. Read John 14:15 – What is it?
7. How can you begin to value God's Word higher?

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Thursday Hindrances to Prayer

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1. Read Matthew 6:9-15 – According to verse 15, what else will hinder my prayers?
2. What specifically will God not do for us if we are unforgiving to others?
3. According to verse 14, what is the solution to unforgiveness?
4. Another hindrance is found in Deuteronomy 1:41-45 – What did the Israelites want to do?
5. According to verse 42, what did God tell them not to do?
6. According to verse 43, what did they do anyway?
7. According to verse 44, what happened as a result of their rebellion and disobedience?
8. According to verse 45, what happened when they returned and prayed to the Lord?
9. Why do you think God didn't hear them?
10. Read I John 3:22 – What is the solution for disobedience?

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Friday Hindrances to Prayer

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1. Read James 1:5-7 – What are we instructed to do if we lack wisdom?
2. Is God generous with giving wisdom?
3. Will God scold you for asking for wisdom?
4. According to verse 5, what promise is given concerning asking for wisdom?
5. According to verse 6, how should we ask?
6. To what does God compare a person who is doubtful in his prayer?
7. Picture a wave that is just thrown around and has really no control over itself. That's what a person is like who does not ask in faith. According to verse 7, should that kind of person expect to receive the wisdom he requested?
8. Should that person expect to receive anything from God?
9. This solution has two parts. Read Mark 9:23-24 – Who is our first helper for unbelief?
10. Read I Thessalonians 3:10 – Who else should pray for us?

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Saturday Hindrances to Prayer

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1. Read James 4:1-4 – Verse 2 identifies one reason why we don't have the things we desire. What is it?
2. Verse 3 identifies one of the reasons why we ask for something and don't get it. It identifies another hindrance to prayer. What is it?
3. Selfish motives in prayer will keep us from seeing the answer. James said that we want to consume things upon our own lusts. Verse 4 mentions one of the lusts specifically. What is it?
4. According to verse 4, friendship with the world causes you to be what?
5. Is it logical to expect God to answer the prayers of His enemies?
6. There are also two parts to this solution. Read Matthew 6:33 – In stead of having selfish motives and seeking my own pleasure, what should I seek first?
7. What will happen when God and His righteousness are my first priority?
8. Read Colossians 3:2 – What else will help me get my priorities in order?

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Sunday Hindrances to Prayer

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1. Read Proverbs 1:24-30 – Verse 24 describes two actions that God did in order to try to avail Himself to us. What are they?

2. According to verses 24-25, what were our responses?

3. According to verses 26-27, what will God do in our time of need?

4. According to verse 28, we will call on God in our time of need, but what will God not do?

5. What four reasons did He give for that in verses 29-30?

6. Indifference toward God will hinder our prayers. Basically, this passage is saying that if we are indifferent toward God, He will be indifferent toward us. There is, however, a solution for this problem. Read II Chronicles 7:14 – According to this verse, what are our four responsibilities?

7. What will God do when we fulfill our responsibilities?

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