

Power in Prayer

Hindrances to Prayer

I. Introduction

- If we know we should pray, why do we not pray?
- If we know prayer works, why are our prayers not answered?
- Because we are hindered in this vital act!

II. Hindered *FROM* Prayer

- Simply not praying - James 4:2
 - "...ye have not, because ye ask not."
- Unbelief - Hebrews 11:6
 - Not believing in the command to or effectiveness of prayer.
- Self-sufficiency - James 4:2
- Busy-ness – Luke 10:38-42
- Too little time - Matthew 26:40-41, Hebrews 11:6
 - "Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall have to spend the first three hours in prayer!" – Martin Luther
- Giving up too soon – Luke 18:1
- Satanic Resistance – Ephesians 6:10-12, Daniel 10:12-13
 - Prayer is a vital part of spiritual warfare – Ephesians 6:18

III. Hindered *IN* Prayer

- Sin against God – Isaiah 59:2
 - Unbelief – Hebrews 11:6
 - Too often we pray but do not expect an answer.
 - Incomplete Surrender to God's Will and Work – James 4:1-12
 - Sometimes
 - Idolatry – Ezekiel 14:3
 - An idol can be anything we put above God.
 - Neglecting God's Word/Instruction – Proverbs 28:9
 - Why should God listen to us if we aren't listening to Him?
 - Selfishness – I John 5:14, James 4:3
- Sin against Man – Matthew 5:23-24
 - Unforgiving Spirit – Matthew 18:23-35
 - Discord in Home – I Peter 3:7
 - Lack of Love/Charity – Proverbs 21:13

IV. Solutions to Hindered Prayer

- Confession – I John 1:9
- Repentance – II Corinthians 7:10
- Surrender – Romans 12:1
- Growth – Romans 12:2