

Prayer 2

The obstacles of prayer: The things that stop prayer being answered.

We often wonder why God does not answer our prayers. There are a number of reasons why this happens.

1. **A hidden sin** is not confessed. Psalm 66:18 “If I had enjoyed having sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”

Isaiah 59:1-2 “People of Israel, the Lord's arm is not too weak to save you.

His ears aren't too deaf to hear your cry for help.
2 But your sins have separated you from your God.
They have caused him to turn his face away from you.
So he won't listen to you”.

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2. The practice of magic and the worship of other gods. Ezekiel 14:3 "Son of man, these men have thought about nothing but other gods. They have fallen into the evil trap of worshiping them. Should I let those men ask me for any advice?"

A number of us believe in magic or believe in witchcraft. We believe in the power of the devil. Why then would God give us any advice or listen to our prayers?

3. Greediness and love of Money.

Proverbs 21:13 Said "Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard".

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Practice what you know! Do not let the love of the world (Money) keep you away from the kingdom of God.

Remember when we cry we will not be heard.

1Timothy 6:10 said “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

4. Doubtful Heart and Lack of Faith.

James 1:6-8 “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. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.

He is a double-minded man unstable in all his ways.”

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5. Forgiveness and Bitterness.

Matthew 6:14-15. “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Lack of forgiveness and bitterness in our hearts results in no answers to our prayers.

6. Honouring Behaviour Between Husband and wife.

When you do not honour your wife/husband, your prayers are hindered. 1Peter 3:7 “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honour 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.”

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7. Proud heart.

Been proud in anything, even being spiritual proud, will result in your prayers being hindered. James 4:6 said “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

8. Selfishness.

Our prayers sometimes are self centred. We pray, Lord give to me! James 4:3 said “ You ask and do not receive because, you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” For example, Lord give me the Lottery, then I will take my wife on a cruise around the world.

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9. The complaining and judging spirit.

Matthew 7:1 “Judge not, that you be not judged.”

This spirit is in all of us. We are all sinners, but remember those who are in Christ are a new creation. Let us stop, and defeat this spirit of complaining and judging people.

Put on the full armour of God, the word of God, to encourage and lift people up in Jesus name.

10. Thankful Heart.

The will of God is for us to have a thankful heart for what Christ has done for us. 1Thessalonians 5:18 “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

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11. Restore what he has stolen.

When we sin, we confess and ask for forgiveness, and we like to hold on to the things that we have stolen. Not only material things, but emotional things. We steal glory from some one, we need to restore that glory to the person. Leviticus 6: 4-5. “Then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen.” Keeping things that do not belong to us, hinders our prayers.

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12. The Love of the World.

1John 2:15. “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” When we love the world, the Lord does not answer our prayers.

13. Pray in the name of Jesus.

We have to pray in the name of Jesus believing in the power of the name of Jesus. The blind man cried out to the son of David the saviour. John 14:14 Said “If you ask anything in My name I will do it.”

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14. Prayer according to the Will of God.

Prayers do not get answered because we pray in our own will. 1John 5:14. “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

Let us learn the will of God in our lives. Let us learn how to hear His voice.

And let us respond to His calling, and search our hearts, and repent of our sins.

Ask Him to make you the person He wants you to be. The Lord is near and waiting to hear from you.