

Series: The Perils of Prayer

THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED

1 PETER 3:1-12

Text: 1 Peter 3:7

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*⁷ Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; **that your prayers be not hindered.***

Introduction:

To some they will not relate to this passage because they simple don't pray.

There are also some whose prayers are so meaningless that if they were hindered it would be of no consequences.

Understand to merely go through the formality in a careless or halfhearted way is to mock God and show a great deal of disrespect.

I often wonder has the Lord become wearied by our vain reputation and heartless praying.

To those who do pray, prayer is a very precious thing.

To those who do pray, the danger of their prayer being hindered serves as motivation why our relationships in our homes and with others must be right.

This text should serve as a challenge to each of us so that our prayers be not hindered.

We will consider this evening the Possibility of Being Hindered From Prayer, The Possibility of Being Hindered In Prayer; and The Possibility

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. SOME REASONS OF BEING HINDERED FROM PRAYER

There are several things that hinder us from praying:

A. People Don't Believe

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for **he that cometh to God must believe that he is**, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

People don't pray because they don't believe God will hear or answer their prayer.

We either don't believe He is able to answer our prayer, our request is too big for Him, He can't handle it, He's too far removed, or He doesn't really care enough to intervene on our behalf.

Paul wrote to the Romans:

Romans 10:14

¹⁴ ***How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?*** *and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

We are unable or unmotivated to call on Him because of our unbelief. Think about it, if we knew if we asked Him for something right now He would grant it, would we not go to Him in prayer? Of course, any of us would.

Remember:

Nothing is too hard or difficult for the Lord.

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

Genesis 18:14

¹⁴ *Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.*

Job 42:2

² *I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.*

Jeremiah 32:17

¹⁷ *Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:*

Jeremiah 32:27

²⁷ *Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?*

Luke 1:37

³⁷ *For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

Matthew 19:25-26

²⁵ *When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? ²⁶ But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

Another reason people don't pray is:

B. The Weakness of the Flesh (Mark 14:37-38)

Mark 14:37-38

³⁷ And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Understand:

Our flesh is opposed to anything spiritual and will fight us all the way.

Note Galatians 5:17:

Galatians 5:17

¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Another reason that people are hindered from praying is:

C. Lack of Spiritual Discipline

We may be saved and spirit-filled but without discipline we will never spend quality time with God in prayer.

Psalm 37:4-5

⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. ⁵ Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Notice the verses says:

Delight thyself in the Lord.

Many have the desire to pray but never get around to it.

We may delight in the Lord and desire to spend time with Him but it takes commitment and discipline if we are to follow through on our desire and spend time with Him in prayer.

No one ever spends regular quality time in prayer without commitment and discipline.

We must have a resolve that nothing will get in our way of spending time with God.

Another reason that people are hindered from praying is:

C. Leaving Their First Love

Revelation 2:4

⁴ Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

We no longer have that enjoyment of God's presence we once had. We have left our first love and must return.

Another reason that people are hindered from praying is:

D. Don't Want God to Interfere In Our Life

When we get alone with God in prayer, we put ourselves in a place for God to work in our life.

Like the rich young ruler He begins to put His finger on things in our life.

Matthew 19:16-22

¹⁶ And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? ¹⁷ And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

¹⁸ He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honour

thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ²⁰ The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? ²¹ Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Not to spend time in prayer shows we are unwilling for God to work in our life.

We should be willing to expose ourselves to Him in prayer allowing Him to do what He desires in us.

We will be the better for it.

2. THE REALITY OF HINDERED PRAYER

In our passage we see several things that hindered our prayers.

- A Wrong Relationship or Fellowship with God (vs. 12)

1 Peter 3:12

¹² *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and*

*his ears are open unto **their** prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

The key word here is “their.”

It is a reference of the prayers of the righteous.

We must know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and God as our Father before we can be sure that our prayers will be heard and answered.

We also must remain in fellowship with Him as well.

- A Wrong Relationship With Others (vss. 1-7)

In verses 1-6 it speaks of the responsibilities of wives

In verse 7 it speaks of the responsibilities of the husband

In verses 8-17 it speaks of the responsibilities of all.

Our prayers will be hindered if our relationship and fellowship is wrong.

There are several other things that will hinder our prayers.

Note:

- Personal known sin in the believer's life

Psalm 66:18

¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

- Unreconciled wrongs, debts, or offenses between Christian brothers and sisters.

Matthew 5:23-24

²³ *Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;*

²⁴ *Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

- An unforgiving or bitter spirit

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹ *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?* ²² *Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

Ephesians 4:32

³² *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

- The sin of covetousness

James 4:1-3

¹ From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? ² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

- Neglect and indifference to the Word of God

Proverbs 28:9

⁹ He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

- Prayerlessness itself

1 Samuel 12:23

²³ Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

How tragic it would be to allow any of these things to hinder our prayers from the answers our Heavenly Father delights to give.

We have considered the Reasons of Being Hindered From Prayer and the Reality of Hindered Prayer note lastly:

3. THE REMEDY TO KEEP OUR PRAYERS FROM BEING HINDERED

These principles may seem simple but it's often the simple or small things that trip us up.

Illustration:

Most people don't trip over a bolder, but often a small pebble can cause one to turn their ankle and fall.

It's often not the big things that cause us spiritual problems but rather small or simple things.

Note these remedies of hindered prayer:

- Be Determined to Pray

Often we just don't pray like we should.

- Keep a right fellowship with the Lord and other.

Understand:

If our fellowship with the Lord is not right our fellowship with other will not be right – If our fellowship with others is not right our fellowship with the Lord will be hindered – thus hindering our prayers.

- Confess Our Sin

Regarding iniquity in our hearts will hinder the hearing of our prayer.

- Don't neglect the Word of God

Spend time in God's Word – "Meditate upon it, Memorize it, and Mind it."

Close:

Understand there are Hindrances the keep us From Prayer, there are Hindrances to Our Prayer.

May we not allow anything Hinder us From Praying or Hinder our Prayers from being answered.

If your prayers are being hindered then may we follow the remedies we have considered this evening.