

A Lively Hope In Troubled Times Hindrances to Prayer 1 Peter 3.7

When a person is going through troubled times what do they usually do? They start praying!

Prayer is incredibly comforting when one is desperate. You may not have any words that you think you can say to a troubled person, but if you start praying for them they will usually find a kind of solace, a comfort to their troubled soul.

Christians ought to have Power In Prayer!

James 5:16 - . . . The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Sadly, many Christians have no power in prayer and they know it. Why? They may not really know why. They just throw their hands up and go through the prayerful motions and hope for the best.

Do you know Child Of God that the Word of God reveals hindrances to your prayers?

Study the Word of God, discover these hindrances to your prayers and correct them, so you can have **Power In Prayer!**

1. **Disobedience to God (Zech 7.13; Gen 22.18; 1 Jn 3.22-23; Prov 28.9; Isa 1.15,19-20)**

Zech 7.13

Disobedience to God is when you know what God says in His Word and you choose not to heed God through His Word. When we close our ears and refuse to hear, then God will also refuse to hear.

*Zechariah 7:13 - Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; **so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:***

1 John 3.22

Obedience is the result of Hearing and Heeding God and His Word. Obedience results in God's Blessings.

*Genesis 22:18 - And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; **because thou hast obeyed my voice.***

1 John 3:22–23 - And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, **because we keep his commandments**, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. ²³And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

Prov 28.9

Isaiah 1:15 - And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, **when ye make many prayers, I will not hear:** your hands are full of blood.

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1. Disobedience To God

Isaiah 1:19–20 - If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: ²⁰But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Proverbs 28:9 - He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, **even his prayer shall be abomination.**

Psalms 66.18

R.G. Lee, once called the Prince of Preachers, said, "We must not attempt to achieve by supplication what can be achieved only by supplication and service"

Do you know why many Christians choose not to obey God and are hindered in their prayers? Because they Cherish their Sin more than they Cherish God.

2. Cherished Sin (Ps 66.18; Isa 59.1-2; 1 Pet 3.12)

Psalms 66:18 - If I regard iniquity in my heart, **the Lord will not hear me:**

Isa 59.1

1 Peter 3:12 - 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.

Isaiah 59:1–2 - Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²**But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.**

Do you Love your sin more than your Love God? That heart felt desire will lead to your disobedience of God

3. A Lack of Believing Faith (Heb 11.6; Jam 1.6-7; Mark 11.24)

Mark 11.24

Faith Is **NOT**, just believing in something you cannot see. You are not growing your faith by just convincing yourself that something you think is true is really true. Faith is NOT just believing “Whatever” strong enough.

Faith is **“Believing What God Has Said.”**

Faith is **“Taking God At His Word.”**

*Hebrews 11:6 - **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.*

*James 1:6–7 - **But let him ask in faith,** nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

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2. Cherished Sin
3. A Lack of Believing Faith

*Mark 11:24 - Therefore I say unto you, **What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.***

Don't misunderstand this verse in Mark. It is **NOT** saying if you believe something strong enough you will get it. What it is saying is if something is in God's will, revealed in God's Word, believe in that and you will have it.

Learning to pray properly is first learning to listen to God through His Word. Getting in touch with heaven is getting in touch with the heart of God. When you believe in anything that is in God's will then God will give it.

Our Text

4. **Marital disorder or home discord (1 Pet 3.7; Eph 5.25,33; Eph 6.1-4)** – Our source text today reveals this truth.

1 Peter 3:7** - 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.

Eph 5.25

Husbands must Love Their wives as Christ loves the Church.

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:33 - Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Ephesians 6:1–4 - Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
²Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)
³That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. ⁴And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

From these passages we discover that a home that is right with each other will have power in prayer.

Job 35.12

5. Pride (Job 35.12-13; 1Pet 5.5-6)

Job 35:12–13 - There they cry, but none giveth answer, because of the pride of evil men. ¹³Surely God will not hear vanity, neither will the Almighty regard it.

James 4.3

1 Peter 5:5–6 - Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. **Yea, all of you be subject one to another,** and be clothed with humility: **for God resisteth the proud,** and giveth grace to the humble. ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

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1. Disobedience To God
2. Cherished Sin
3. A Lack of Believing Faith
4. Marital Disorder or Discord in the home

R.G. Lee once said,

"Submissive prayer is not asking God to do what we want, but is endeavoring on our part to make our will cooperate with His eternal good will"

One of the Chief indications of pride is Selfishness. Me first.

James 4:3 - Ye ask, and receive not, **because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.**

Proverbs 21:13 - Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, **but shall not be heard.**

Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

R.G. Lee once said,

"We believe, as others have said, that in a life of intercessory prayers for others lies the highest spiritual development"

6. Failing To Forgive (Matt 6.14-15; 18.22; 1 John 3.15)

Matthew 6:14–15 - For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

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5. Pride
6. Failing To Forgive

*Matthew 18:21–22 - Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²²Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.***

Then our Lord told the story of the Forgiving King and the unforgiving servant. He then said,

*Matthew 18:35 - So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, **if ye from your hearts forgive not** every one his brother their trespasses.*

Christians, we must forgive from our hearts!

Ezek 14.3

7. Idolatry (1 John 5.21; Ezek 14.3; 1 John 2.15-16; Col 3.5)

1 John 5:21 - Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

1 John 2:15–16 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Colossians 3:5 - Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

*Ezekiel 14:3 - Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: **should I be enquired of at all by them?***

R.G. Lee once said,

"Prayer not only draws the great God into a small heart and drives the hungry soul out to a full God, but is that which brings two lovers, God and the soul, into one joyful room"

R.G. Lee once said,

"Remember that not to pray is to fail, and that to pray aright is never to fail"

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Jan 31, 2021

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