

# Unhindered Prayer

## Scripture:

I Peter 3:7-12 “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor 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. <sup>8</sup>Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; <sup>9</sup>not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup>For “He who would love life and see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. <sup>11</sup>Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup>For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”

## Introduction:

Prayer promises are conditional. They’re not like a coke machine where you put your money in the slot and out pops an answer. Verse 12 declares that God's eyes are over the righteous and his ears are open to their prayers. This would seem to indicate that a good relationship with God is the vital key needed in getting our prayers answered. We need to discover what hinders our prayers so that we can continue to hear the voice of God since hearing his voice is established through prayer.

## I. Abide in Christ and let no sin hinder prayer.

- A. The righteous are assured access to the Lord.
  - 1. James 5:16 “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”  
RSV – “The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.”
  - 2. Proverbs 10:24 “The fear of the wicked will come upon him, and the desire of the righteous will be granted.”
  - 3. Psalms 66:18-20 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. <sup>19</sup>But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. <sup>20</sup>Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!”
- B. Jesus puts this in a positive way.  
John 15:7 “If you abide in me, and My words abide in you, you <sup>□</sup> will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”
  - 1. The secret to unhindered prayer is to abide in Christ.
  - 2. To abide in Christ is to forsake sin and live a righteous life.
  - 3. We must follow Christ’s standard rather than that of our society.
- C. As we pray in Jesus’ name, we cannot expect to prevail if we are out of harmony with Him.
  - 1. How obedient are we?
  - 2. We must examine ourselves and lay aside every weight.

## II. Sins that hinder our prayers.

- A. Family dissention (vs., 7)
- B. Fellowship with church family broken. (vs. 8)  
(harsh, critical, indifferent attitudes will not bring prevailing prayer.)
- C. Cold selfishness (vs. 8)
  - 1. Sympathy and a tender heart will overcome this problem.
  - 2. A woman was beaten and molested by 3 people while a crowd stood by, ignoring her pleas for help. (in America – land of the free and the home of the brave. – the Christian nation.)
- D. Arrogance and pride. (vs. 8)
  - 1. Replace this with a humble mind.  
Luke 18:9-14 “Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple

*to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' <sup>13</sup>And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

2. Arrogance or pride causes our prayers to only be unto ourselves.
3. God promises to bring humility to us. We should ask Him for it rather than have it force upon us.

E. Refusal to forgive. (vs. 9)

1. Jesus taught us to forgive.  
Matthew 6:12 *"Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors."*

A little boy had just been punished by his father and now it is time to say his prayers. While praying, he includes all the family members but one. Then he turned to his father and said, "I suppose you noticed you weren't in it."

F. Turning away from peace. (vs.11)

Matthew 5:9 *"Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God."*

### III. Conclusion

- A. Are we on praying ground today or do we need to do some things to get on praying ground?
- B. Praying ground is not a physical location, but a spiritual one.