

Developing A Prayer Built Life (Part 3)

Mark 11:22-24

Mark 11:22-24 Have faith in God, Jesus answered. Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, Go throw yourself into the sea, and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

As we continue to study Developing A Prayer Built Life this evening there are some things that we as believers must also get an understanding about even though we pray to Lord and the Lord has said that He will hear our prayers and also answer them, and I think that's where all the excitement and expectation begins to overflow in our hearts. Many people begin to lose their patience after hearing and receiving all the above, but we must arm our hearts and minds, that just because God will stay true to his promises there are some things that we must understand that will **hinder our prayers** from being answered.

So I pray by the aid of the Holy Spirit and most certainly by your prayers that we will explore those things that will get in our path of receiving answered prayers. Those things that will shut the door on our prayers and cause God not to even visit them.

What are some things that will hinder our prayers?

- Unforgiveness – We learn unforgiveness by knowing what forgiveness means, forgiveness is the willingness to give up your resentment toward someone who has done you wronged, no matter how painful that wrong might have been. We begin to renounce any desire to get even, and refuse to agree about any retaliation. Unforgiveness is a deliberate mindset to do the opposite, to resent the wrong and the person who has wronged us, you will do all you can to get revenge. A unforgiving heart will hold on to the past and refuse to extend to others that which the Lord has extended to us.

Matt 5:22-23 Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Teaching Point: Unforgiveness will contaminate our spirit and it will constantly eat away at our character.

- **Unhealthy Marriage**

1 Peter 3:7 Husband, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers

We must be considerate as we live with our wives, here it means to know, to master the fact, to comprehend, assimilate, grasp; to be thoughtful, mindful, have careful thought.

We must understand that women are very emotional...

Treat them with respect: Here God admonishes that the husbands should treat their wives with honor. To honor is to treat with high respect, recognize, admire, be proud of, esteem, obey. I do believe a lifestyle of honor begins at an early when we are taught to honor our parents. By this a man will already know how to honor a lady or his wife.

Treated as the weaker partner: God is saying a man is to respect and honor the weaker vessel. Some may interpret this verse to mean that a woman is a weaker vessel, No. She is to be treated as if she is a weaker, delicate vessel: Which says she is an expensive jewel in your hands. You don't want her to break or be hurt in anyway.

Proverbs 12:4 A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

The husband and wife has been wash with the same blood that was shed on Calvary that makes us heirs of gracious gift of life.

Malachi 2:10-17 (Read)

Teaching Point: Men's understand that when we are honoring and respecting our wives we are paying homage to the word of God!!!

- **Pride**- hinders our prayers because it makes us think that we don't need God and that we are self-sufficient, disallow His help, provision, wisdom

We should humble ourselves and acknowledge that He is our source and we need Him and His good gifts.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

One of the six things that the Lord hates: A proud look, Proverbs 6:17

1 John 2:16 For everything in the world the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life comes not from the Father but from the world.

- **Sin in our lives-** God is always ready to respond to a prayer of repentance and confession. We should not allow anything to keep us from repenting and confessing our sins unto the Lord.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Ps 66:18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.

- **Wrong Motives:** We must examine ourselves to make sure that our motives are pure without any selfishness and self-centeredness.

Self-Centeredness is defined as immoderate concern with one's own interests and well-being; self-love or egotism. People who are self-centered can't please God. Ro 8:8 So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him. Self-Centeredness is a sin because it leads to being devoted to self-gratification and overlooking the needs of others.

1 Cor 13:4-7 Love is patient and kind, love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things.

Proverbs 16:2,3 All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

Teaching Point: When we discover the wrong motives in our lives we should repent and ask God to cleanse our hearts and minds and give us His motives.

- **Bitterness-** is a result of long term unforgiveness. It becomes like cancer of the soul, making us resentful, fearful, and unbelieving. Prayer of repentance and the authority of the name of Jesus and the intervention of mature believers can break the power of bitterness.

One of the most significant repercussions is that bitterness takes root in the heart, and then it spreads its poison to choke out every godly trait there is.

Hebrews 12:14,15 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy, without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

- **Stinginess**- We need to be generous and compassionate concerning the needs of others. We should give, serve, and care whenever we have the opportunity

Proverbs 11:25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

IF we want to prosper it is imperative that we take our eyes off ourselves and began to focus them on others. Fatness comes from a soul that is considerate, and thoughtful, helpful and give what you have to bless someone else.

Cornelius stared at him in fear. What is it Lord? he asked. The angel answered. Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

What kind of memorial has the Lord set before Him when it comes to us? Will it be a monumental thought of us being generous and giving, serving others or a memorial of us being tight fist, stingy?

Proverbs 21:13 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

1 John 3:17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?