

Hinderances to effective Prayer

Prayer Series

Hinderances to Effective Prayer



The Spiritual Battle

1 Peter 5:8

8. Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Unconfessed Sin

- Fornication
- Lust for Power
- Materialism
- Jealousy / Envy

Unconfessed Sin: Personal

Psalm 66: 16-20

16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had ***cherished iniquity** in my heart, **the Lord would not have listened**. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Unconfessed Sin

*Cherished Iniquity

‘The intent of an individual
to wilfully continue sinning’

Unconfessed Sin: Corporate (Righteousness)

Isaiah 59: 1-4

‘Listen! The Lord’s arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call.² It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.³ Your hands are the hands of murderers, and your fingers are filthy with sin. Your lips are full of lies, and your mouth spews corruption.⁴ No one cares about being fair and honest. The people’s lawsuits are based on lies. They conceive evil deeds and then give birth to sin.’

Unconfessed Sin: Corporate (Justice)

Isaiah 59: 14-16

14 'Our courts oppose the righteous, and justice is nowhere to be found. Truth stumbles in the streets, and honesty has been outlawed. 15 Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attacked. The Lord looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. 16 He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So, he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm, and his justice sustained him.'

Unconfessed Sin: **Personal**

1 John 1:9

9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Unconfessed Sin: Corporate

James 5:16

16. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. [b

‘The purpose of a
"discernment of spirits" is to
empower effective prayer and
service, rather than to fuel a
judgmental attitude’

Oswald Chambers : My utmost for his Highest

Unconfessed Sin: Corporate



Unconfessed Sin: Corporate

Our hearts should stir us towards
should see people **Healed** and
Restored

Hinderances to Effective Prayer

UNFORGIVENESS

Unforgiveness

Silent Assassin



Unforgiveness

- **Anger** is an emotional reaction of displeasure.
- It's possible to **be angry** but do not let it lead to Sin (Matt 21: 12-13)
- **Righteous Indignation** – Being angry at the things that displeases God (Injustice, abuse etc.)

Unconfessed Sin: Corporate

Ephesians 4:26-27

"In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold"

Unforgiveness

- We are encouraged to try and deal with it quickly
- If it's within your power to find a resolution, try and do so
- If the outcome cannot be changed, then pray for peace in that situation and for the grace to forgive
- **You cannot receive from God what you refuse to give to others**

Unforgiveness:

Matthew 6:12

12 And forgive us our trespasses, **as we forgive them** that trespass against us.

Unforgiveness: Declaration

*Walking in integrity as faithful stewards,
demonstrating love, compassion and
forgiveness, even when it is difficult.*

Selfish Ambition and Pride

Selfish Ambition: To prioritise one's own needs and interests before the needs of others

Vein Conceit: To have an elevated sense of self

Selfish Ambition and Pride

Luke 18: 9-14

¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus within himself: God, I thank you that I am not like other men are: extortioners, unjust, adulterers – or like this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week; I give tithes of all that I possess.

Selfish Ambition and Pride

Luke 18: 9-14

But the publican stood afar off, and would not lift up his eyes to heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God be merciful to me, a sinner. ¹⁴I tell you, this man departed home to his house justified more than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be brought low, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Selfish Ambition and Pride

- Pride and selfish ambition sends a destructive signal from our hearts that we do not really need God
- Or worse still, we only need Him to bless our own agenda
- So then, God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:16)

Lack of Faith

Hebrews 11:6

6. 'But without faith, it is impossible to please him. For the person who comes to God must believe that God is, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.'

Lack of Faith

- Our doubt and unbelief displeases God
- Our Faith must have substance that God is real and therefore able to meet my needs according to **His will**
- A Lack of faith often limits what God can for us (Mark 6:5-6)

Reflection

- What is hindering your prayer life?
- What do we need to confess before God?
- What conversations do I need to have with others to put things right?

Prayer

*That the Lord will search our hearts and reveal
any blockages in our lives that prevent us from
communicating with Him effectively*
