

PROBLEMS FOR PRAYER

Series goal: Understanding the _____ that _____ our prayer.
 Know that Satan's goal is to keep us from prayer. Why? Because God _____ it.
Colossians 4:2; John 16:24

1. WE _____: WE ARE IN PRAYER TOGETHER TO CALL ON _____ GOD!

- Our Prayer Ministry isn't a place for us to try and be comfortable!

Let's come together in prayer, but also in _____ over _____ He is!

- Example: Queen Esther
Jeremiah 5:22; Psalm 119:120 Why? **Proverbs 15:3; Matthew 10:28; Isaiah 45:20-23**

Search the Word. All in God's presence fall down before Him. **Ezekiel 1:28**

Tremble! **Psalm 2:11-12**

2. WE ARE TO COME _____ TO THE _____ OF _____! HEBREWS 4:12-16

- Mercy and Grace – why? Because we have GREAT NEED!
 We need His blessing for the work He has called us to. Example: **1 Corinthians 14:25**
- **The problem: Most of God's people come _____ into the throne.**
 Instead of CALLING on Him, WE FORM PLATITUDES! We pray PROPER prayers that we think the person sitting next to us will be impressed with!

We come _____ to the throne of our _____ of us!

God did not _____ you that _____ of _____. Let's repent of that. **Psalms 17:1**

- **Some of you come timidly because you fear that DEEP down, God really _____ you.**

Some fear that God only sits on the throne of a _____ seat when you come before Him in prayer. Remember Hebrews 4:12-16.

Vs 12-13: God _____ YOU and He has _____ YOU FOR WHO AND ALL THAT YOU ACTUALLY _____ in His Word.

Vs 14-15: But that's why He gave us Jesus! **Ephesians 1:5-7**

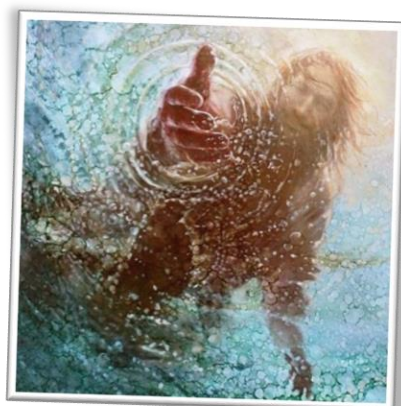
Vs 16: Don't continue in your lack. **Psalm 46:1**

3. A LACK OF _____ HINDERS OUR PRAYER.

- **We are in the midst of a spiritual battle! James 1:2-4**
Perfect (complete): Getting to vs 4 takes vs 3. So be happy about vs 2!
- KEY: TRIALS _____ US! That's why God has you go thru them.
You need to see that His Word TRULY IS ENOUGH! God's promises are sure. **Romans 5:1-5**
- We all need _____ to know HOW the Word applies in the time of TEMPEST!
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP EVERYTHING STRAIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE?

James 1:2-8 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ **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. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸ A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

- Our problem: We ask, not expecting God to answer or help.
KEY: Praying without faith is a great hindrance to prayer!



- **Memory verse:**
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.

KEY: A lack of faith not only hinders prayer, but it keeps us _____ of instead of _____ over our trials!

- Vs 6: "Right Peter?" (Turn to Matt 14:24-32) **Matthew 14:22-33**
NOTE: What is the Word of God to Peter?

- It is when we get our eyes _____ the promises of God and onto our _____ that we begin to sink!

The hindrance of unbelief. Psalms 66:18

- Vs 6 says, "ask in faith." Faith in WHO?
- Are you weak in faith. Take it to Jesus! **Mark 9:17-27**
Don't miss the picture! **2 Corinthians 4:4**
Where you refuse faith, Satan has trapped in blindness.



4. PRAYING _____ HINDERS OUR PRAYER.

James 4:2-10 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. ⁴ Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. ⁵ Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? ⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded. ⁹ Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

- KEY: When our the _____ of our LIFE AND PRAYERS ARE ALL ON _____, our prayers are not received.
- **Example: God promise to Israel. Deuteronomy 1:10-46**
Vs 11 – 18: Israel was organized thru leadership.
Vs 19 – 24: A great plan of faith in God's promise.

Vs 25: PROBLEM: When good game plans go bad!

It's good and right to plan. But the outcome of our planning can never undermine our SIMPLE CHILD LIKE OBEDIANCE TO OBEY THE LORD'S COMMAND!

*Israel bought into **excuses for rebellion**.*

1. You refuse to move by faith INTO THE _____ FIGHT. Vs 26-33

2. You end up engaged in the _____ fights! Vs 34-44

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

3. You will engage in Selfish _____ vs. Godly _____! Vs 45

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

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

4. You end up living a life that is just " _____ " until you die! Vs 46

Let Israel be an example to us! 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

We give the devil too much credit! Example: **1 Samuel 17:26-51**

Christ has made you for more than that!

Titus 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; Acts 4:29-31



5A. _____ IN OUR HEART HINDERS OUR PRAYER.

- Understand that Idolatry makes God your _____.

Exodus 20:1-6 And God spake all these words, saying, ² I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me. ⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of *any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that **hate** me; ⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

KEY: To reject God for any other is to **hate** Him.

- Idolatry hinders our prayers to God.

Ezekiel 14:1-11 Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me. ² And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 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? ⁴ Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; ⁵ That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. ⁶ Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn *yourselves* from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. ⁷ For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: ⁸ And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD. ⁹ And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. ¹⁰ And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh *unto him*; ¹¹ That the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord GOD.

Proverbs 26:4-5 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. ⁵ Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

BEWARE: God can give you what you want in rebellion. It will be to your own discipline.

5B. _____ IS IDOLATRY; AND IT HINDERS OUR PRAYER.

- The problem biblically.

Instruction:

1 Timothy 6:6-11 But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Warning:

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts,

which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some **coveted** after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Exodus 20:1-5. The love of money _____ the first commandment!
Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:5

Lust for what God hasn't giving you is COVETOUSNESS = idolatry.

COVETOUSNESS IS A _____ THAT _____ UP _____ FOR THE BELIEVER!

Malachi 3:7-9 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? ⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ⁹ Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation.

- COVETOUSNESS and its _____ to HONOR God _____ puts God's people under a _____!

"Stealing, God-robbing, covetousness is the same wicked sin in New Testament times as it was in Old Testament times. And those who sing, "Oh, How I Love Jesus," but do not love Him a dime's worth out of a dollar will not get far in their praying." - John R. Rice

Psalms 50:10-12 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. ¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

- God does not care so much about your money, but He wants _____.
- God's promise of blessing to those that place Him first.

Malachi 3:10-12 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*. ¹¹ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹² And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

What do you love MORE than God? Let's give that up to God.

6. _____ GOD'S _____ IS A GREAT HINDRANCE TO PRAYER.

- *Example:*

- **God's promise!**

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:



- Without God's Word, how can you know what to believe Him and call on Him for?

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Mark 9:23 "All things are possible to him that believeth,"

Romans 10:17 "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"

IF YOUR _____ IS TURNED AWAY FROM THE BIBLE IT IS TURNED AWAY FROM _____.

- You cannot call upon God in faith if you do not use God's Word to grow faith.
KNOW: God's Holy Spirit will not encourage faith in such a disobedient heart.

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

- **God's command!**

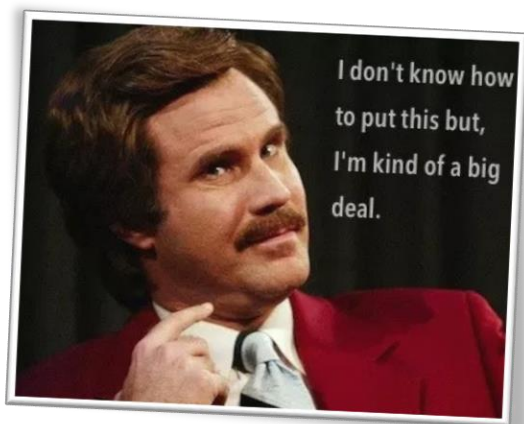
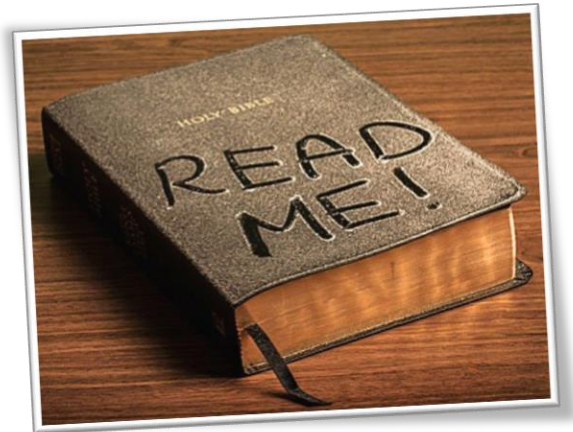
Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart,

"This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book."

- Are you in Word, or has the Bible lost Its hold on you?

✓ **52 Weeks of Pursuit**

- ✓ Why have you lost interest in the Word? Is it that the Holy Spirit is grieved and quenched?
KEY: **1 Cor 2:9-12**, He is the key to the Word being opened to you. Find the sin (or idol) that is hindering proper fellowship with God.
- ✓ Pray for God's help! **Mark 9:24b** "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."



- **Danger warning!**

Zechariah 7:11-13 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. ¹² Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. 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:

- **Understand the _____ to _____ prayer!**

Psalms 1:2-3 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

REVIEW:

_____ IS A GREAT HINDRANCE TO PRAYER.

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

1. Unrepentance vs. _____.

- Notice the verse DOES NOT say that we can't have sin in our lives in order to be heard.

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- KEY: Regard = _____.
- Do not excuse sin in your life.

2. Discern Christ's _____!

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

- Christ died to deliver you from sin.

To hold to sin in the face of Christ's sacrifice is wrong.

Proverbs 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight.

Unrepentant sin will close the doors of heaven to your prayer.

3. _____ the hindrance of sin.

- KEY: agree with God and turn away from SIN! Repent.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. ¹¹ For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

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

- **Take God's _____ in the matter.**

Psalm 66:16-20 Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

¹⁷ I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. ¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: ¹⁹ **But verily God hath heard me**; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. ²⁰ Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.



What needs to be confessed to God?

Review: Psalm 66:18-20

Why does God allow / make sure that there are hindrances to prayer?

Why would God let anything hinder our calling out to Him?

UNDERSTAND GOD'S HEART. HE WANTS RIGHT RELATIONSHIP.

Mark 12:29-31 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments *is*, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: ³⁰ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment. ³¹ And the second *is* like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

God wants us right with Him and His.

God allows hindered prayer...

1. To protect our _____.

FIRST: with _____.

Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Proverbs 15:8-9 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight. ⁹ The way of the wicked *is* an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

Proverbs 21:27 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* abomination: how much more, *when* he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

Any hurt to any _____ hinders _____.

The _____ in the relationship is the _____ that _____ is required. **Psalm 51**

Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

SECOND: with His _____.

Matthew 5:23-24 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.

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.

2. To train our _____.

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

AGAIN: prayer is all about calling on God for the _____ of His _____.

Review: *God allows hindered prayer...*

1. To protect our relationships.

FIRST: with Him.

Proverbs 15:8-9 The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight. ⁹ The way of the wicked *is* an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

SECOND: with His people.

Matthew 5:23-24 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.

Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city: and *their contentions are* like the bars of a castle.

UNDERSTAND HOW BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS HINDER US
IN THE WORK OF GOD AND OUR PRAYERS.

- **We have a family to GROW**

Malachi 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: ⁶ And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

KEY:

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: ⁸ So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

- **In the world you have RELATIONSHIPS to keep.**

- **In the church, we must PROTECT UNITY.**

Today, Satan's best tools are [1] FALSE TEACHING

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me. ² For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.

[2] DIVISION

1 Corinthians 1:10-11 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹ For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. (Eph 4:1-6)

Let's not waste our time together and our relationships together.



Titus 3:9-11 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. ¹⁰ A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; ¹¹ Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

KEY: Let's keep hearts!

When others hurt you, **forgiveness is sure**. You can do it.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ; ¹¹ Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

To refuse forgiveness is **ANTICHRIST**.

Luke 11:1-4 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. ² And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. ³ Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

You CAN forgive in the person of Christ. But, trust is **EARNED**. Trust is **BUILT** over **TIME**.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

- **Right family relationships are critical to the _____ of our _____ life.**

1 Peter 3:1-7 Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; ² While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear. ³ Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴ But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. ⁵ For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: ⁶ Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

Wives: Not fighting, but _____ is the key to winning your mate.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Husband: Not fighting but _____ is the key to winning at prayer. To know is to _____ (Eph 5:28)

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.

You are not right with God if you aren't right with God's people!
If you aren't right with your spouse, you disqualify yourself.

Issue: tremble to disdain or mistreat what belongs to God.



Matthew 26:36-44 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. ³⁷ And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. ³⁸ Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. ³⁹ And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. ⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak. ⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. ⁴³ And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

THE _____ OF THE _____ IS GREAT HINDRANCE TO PRAYER.

- Why?

Romans 7:18-25 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:7-9 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Know yourself. Your flesh is in _____ with the lost and its _____. (**John 8:44**)

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. ¹⁶ For 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.

The answer is always: Walk not in the _____, walk in the _____.

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

So: Don't walk _____. Walk with the _____.
Why?!

Prayer agony...

Matthew 26:45-46 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take *your* rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.



Your flesh IS weak. To have counted on it to come thru is foolish anyway!

Review:

_____ PRAYER IS A HINDRANCE TO _____ PRAYER TO GOD.

Matthew 6:7-8 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

- Beware _____. =
Who LIKES getting nagged constantly?

- KEY: Believe that God _____ your prayer and _____ for you.

1 Peter 5:5-7 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.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Matthew 26:36-44 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. ³⁷ And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. ³⁸ Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. ³⁹ And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*. ⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak. ⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. ⁴³ And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And he left them, and went away again, and **prayed the third time**, saying the same words.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- KEY: prayer's main goal is to _____ you in submission, faith and dependence on God.
- KEY: Do you have an ongoing care? Pray three times and leave it to the _____ of God! Be at peace in the grace of God.

Examples:

12. _____ IS A GREAT HINDRANCE TO PRAYER.



• The proud do not really come to God. *Why?*
Proverbs 6:16-19 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹ A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

- KNOW: We were made for relationship with God!

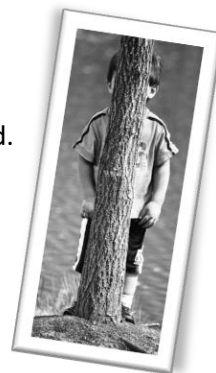
Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Sin _____ us from God. That's why pride keeps us from God.

- KEY:

2 Chronicles 7:12-15 And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

¹³ If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; ¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place.



- There is no prayer without _____.

1 Peter 5:5-7 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.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

13. _____ IS A GREAT HINDRANCE TO PRAYER.

Luke 18:9-14 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 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 with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

- Coming to God full of _____ is a great hindrance.

Two men come to pray.

Notice who the Pharisee is really praying to! (vs 11) _____!

Pleading God while _____ His children is offensive. (vs 11)

- Note: _____ and _____ while full of SELF is vain labor. (vs 12)

14. LACK OF _____ HINDERS PRAYER.

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

- Is forgiveness possible?

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

- **You can forgive.**

Ephesians 4:30-32 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

We have a forgiveness _____!

But we also have forgiveness _____!

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 To whom ye forgive any thing, I *forgive* also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave *it*, for your sakes *forgave I it* in the person of Christ; ¹¹ Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

15. LACK OF _____ HINDERS PRAYER.

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

- God isn't a hypocrite. How you receive others impacts how God receives you.
We must recognize our need.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

- "I'm set! It stinks to be you." That mentality begs a response from God.

Matthew 18:23-35 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. ³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

- Hard heartedness is the root problem!

Zechariah 7:8-14 And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, ⁹ Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:

¹⁰ And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. ¹¹ But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. ¹² Yea, they made their hearts *as* an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. 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: ¹⁴ But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate.

- How do we help the poor?
The Weak vs Wicked.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

16. REJECTION OF GOD'S _____ HINDERS PRAYER.

Matthew 6:9-10 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

- When we refuse to acknowledge that God is in charge, we're hindered. We are out of bounds!

Review:

James 4:6-10 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. ⁹ Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Consider:

Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Submission to God, _____ up our prayer life.
We don't order God around.
We're respectful.
We're desirous of understanding His Will / Word in order to pray properly.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Submission MATURES us. It brings us into conformity to Christ.

Matthew 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.

Matthew 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

17. LACK OF _____ IN PRAYER HINDERS PRAYER.

Matthew 18:19-20 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

- Agree = soom-fo-neh'-o / sounds like?
Word means: *harmony – to sound out TOGETHER!*

Our goal isn't the amount of time we pray; it is to GET TOGETHER (on the same page) in prayer.

- Why Agree?
First - it's _____ to God's Holy Spirit.

Psalms 133:1-3 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity! ² *It is* like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, *even* Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; ³ As the dew of Hermon, *and as the dew* that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, *even* life for evermore.

Second - The devil knows it pleases God, and works to _____ it.

So: Our job is...

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Example: **Acts 4:1-33**

- Notice that this is not long prayer – it's corporate prayer.

If we will get on the same page, ONE minute of corporate prayer will fuel our ministry and rock the nations for the glory of God!