

“ARE YOU HINDERING YOUR OWN PRAYERS?”

I. HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

A. Praying with UNCONFESSED SIN will cause your prayers to be INEFFECTIVE

1. It is impossible for any believer to experience a _____ and _____ prayer ministry if the issue of sin is not faced squarely. (1 John 1:3-10)

* Luke 15:11-32

2. It is unashamed presumption which _____ to ask anything of God while _____ fills the human heart. (Rom. 8:5-8; Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:16-19)

3. If you are holding grudges against someone else, _____ may be _____ for God's silence when it comes to the answer to your prayers. (Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-35; Mark 11:25-26; Luke 6:37)

4. It is sheer nonsense to go on pretending, when all the while you have disqualified yourself by _____ to meet God's _____ for successful prayer. (Ps. 66:18; Prov. 28:13)

* Can there ever be a time when prayer is actually sinful?

* What is God's remedy for all of this, how do you put yourself on praying ground?

B. Praying with a SELFISH Heart will cause your prayers to be INEFFECTIVE

1. By nature we are _____ selfish, and so we must examine our _____ in prayer.
(Job 35:12-13; 1 John 5:14)

2. To “*ask amiss*,” means to pray with the _____. (James 4:1-3)

3. It is _____ that the object or thing that you are asking for is necessarily wrong, but the _____ behind the asking can be impure. (Matt. 6:21; Luke 12:13-15)

4. A selfish believer might try to validate his/her prayer requests with Bible verses _____ out of _____. For example, Matthew 7:7 might be quoted, but the context is Matthew chapter 6.

5. Each one of us can probably look back on a particular prayer request in the distant _____ and thank the Lord today that He _____ answer it with an affirmative. (Ps. 37:4; John 16:24)

* What is the remedy for self-centered praying?