

FIVE HINDRANCES OF

Prayer

REASONS MY PRAYERS ARE NOT ANSWERED



“...But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear...”

Isaiah 59:2, NASB

PART 2

Five Things That Hinder Our Prayers:

UNCONFESSED SIN

II. Unconfessed Sin (Isaiah 59:2)

1. Holding on to sinful attitudes

Psalm 66:18

If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

2. Concealing sin verses exposing it.

Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Job 31:33

Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom,

Psalms 19:12

Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.

3. Walking in darkness rather than in the light.

John 3:19-20

19 And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed.

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Joshua 7:19

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I implore you, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give praise to Him; and tell me now what you have done. Do not hide it from me."

Isaiah 29:15

Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"

4. Not confessing sins and exposing the hidden sins.

1 John 1:8-10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and 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.

Leviticus 5:5

So it shall be when he becomes guilty of one of these things, that he shall confess that in which he has sinned.

James 5:14-15

14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, [a]anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer of faith will [b]restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, [c]they will be forgiven him.

5. In denial about the sins I've committed

2 Samuel 12:1-23

12 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and [a]said, "There were two men in a city, the one wealthy and the other poor.

2 The wealthy man had a great many flocks and herds.

*3 But the poor man had nothing at all except one little ewe lamb
Which he bought and nurtured;*

And it grew up together with him and his children.

*It would eat [b]scraps from him and drink from his cup and lie [c]in his lap,
And was like a daughter to him.*

*4 Now a visitor came to the wealthy man,
And he could not bring himself to take any animal from his own flock or his
own herd,
To prepare for the traveler who had come to him;
So he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had
come to him."*

*5 Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to
Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this certainly
[d]deserves to die! 6 So he must make restitution for the lamb four times
over, since he did this thing and [e]had no compassion."*

7 Nathan then said to David, “You yourself are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘It is I who anointed you as king over Israel, and it is I who rescued you from the hand of Saul. 8 I also gave you your master’s house and put your master’s wives [f]into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you [g]many more things like these! 9 Why have you despised the word of the Lord, by doing evil in His sight? You have struck and killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, you have taken his wife as your wife, and you have slaughtered him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.

10 Now then, the sword shall never leave your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

11 This is what the Lord says: ‘Behold, I am going to raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will sleep with your wives in [h]broad daylight. 12 Indeed, you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and [i]in open daylight.’” 13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has allowed your sin to pass; you shall not die. 14 However, since by this deed you have shown utter disrespect for the [j]Lord, the child himself who is born to you shall certainly die.” 15 Then Nathan went to his house.

Loss of a Child

Later the Lord struck the child that Uriah's [k]widow bore to David, so that he was very sick. 16 David therefore pleaded with God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground. 17 The elders of his household stood beside him in order to help him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them. 18 Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And David's servants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to [l]us. How then can we tell him that the child is dead, since he might do himself harm?" 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

20 *So David got up from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and when he asked, they served him food, and he ate.*

21 *Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was [m]alive; but when the child died, you got up and ate food.”* 22 *And he said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, and the child may live.’* 23 *But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I am going to him, but he will not return to me.”*