

WHY DOESN'T GOD ANSWER MY PRAYERS? (2)
James 4:1-10

Introduction:

1. Christians sometimes feel God doesn't answer their prayers.
2. God does answer every prayer of every Christian if asked in the right way.
 - a. Sometimes He says "Yes."
 - b. Sometimes He says "No."
 - c. Sometimes He says "Wait awhile."
3. Our Father knows and wants what is best for us.
4. He wants to give good things to His children (Luke 11:11-13).
5. There are some things which can hinder our prayers.

Discussion:

I. SELFISHNESS WILL HINDER OUR PRAYERS.

- A. Some think only of themselves and their problems and needs.**

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:3).

- B. Some pray only when they need or want something.**

1. They do not praise God.
2. They do not pray for others.
3. They do not thank God for present blessings.

- C. Some fill their prayers with requests for worldly things:**

"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4).

II. WRONGS AGAINST OTHERS WILL HINDER OUR PRAYERS.

- A. God will not accept our worship if we have not corrected wrongs we have done to others.**

"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First, be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matt. 5:23, 24).

- B. We must forgive in order to be forgiven.**

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in Heaven may also forgive your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in Heaven forgive your trespasses” (Mark 11:25,26).

- C. Two brothers-in-law, both members of the church, lived in the same house for 20 years and did not speak to one another because of some minor disagreement.**
 - 1. They never missed a service.**
 - 2. Their worship was in vain!**
 - 3. They were finally reconciled.**

III. TROUBLE IN THE HOME WILL HINDER OUR PRAYERS.

- A. Husbands and wives who fight and fuss and fill their home with strife will not be able to pray effectively.**

- B. Wives must be respectful of their husbands.**

“Do not let your adornment be merely outward - arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on of fine apparel - rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands” (1 Pet. 3:3-5).

- C. Husbands must be considerate of their wives.**

“Husbands, likewise dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Pet. 3:7).

IV. FAILURE TO SET ASIDE TIME TO PRAY IS A HINDRANCE.

- A. Our lives are filled from the time we get up till we go to bed.**

- 1. Work, school, hobbies, family, sports, social activities, television, computers, etc. fill every waking hour.**
- 2. We all have the same amount of time.**
- 3. It isn't a question of time but of priorities - we do what we want to do!**

- B. No busier man has ever lived than our Lord.**

- 1. He had the most important task to complete and a limited time to do it.**
- 2. He was constantly surrounded by crowds competing for His attention.**

“Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread” (Mark 3:20).

3. He found time for prayer because He made time for prayer.

“Now in the morning, having arisen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place, and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).

- C. Louise Barnett Cox wrote the “Prayer of One of the ‘Busy’ Ones.”

I’ve been so busy, Lord, I’ve had no time to think of Thee.
So much there is that’s needing done, and none to do but me.
My daily work, my family chores, meetings I must attend.
And daily I get more and more requests from all my friends.

I’m always in a hurry, Lord, and always on the run.
I have no quiet time, dear Lord, if I’m to get things done.
Then suddenly I fell very ill and found I could not run -
And much to my surprise, dear Lord, I found the “things” got done.

And as I lie here in my bed with time to meditate,
I promise to find more time for Thee; the other things can wait.
Forgive my “busy-ness” dear God, and I will find some time each day
To quietly walk and talk with Thee and I’ll find some time to pray.

I will not be idle, Oh Lord, nor shirk a duty or a chore.
I will not love Thy people less, but only love Thee more!

Conclusion:

1. There are many hindrances to prayer.
2. We must remove anything from our lives that interferes with the precious privilege of prayer.
3. Prayer is a privilege of God’s children.
4. Are you a child of God?