



Getting Answers to Prayers

ebook author

Prayer Stoppers

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all those who are struggling with getting an answer to their prayers.

Special Dedication

To my Mother Viola Dow, and to all of my friends and family who have not only inspired me to write but who have been very supportive.

In Loving Memory of

Viola May Dow

Mary Ellen Ware

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank all of those who have encouraged me to write. I want to thank my parents and grandparents who when I was a child taught me the ways of the Lord, and taught me the importance of studying Gods word, and to have a good prayer life.

I want to give special thanks to my wife Lima for her support and encouragement and all the hard work she has done in my ministry. To my daughters Michelle Matthews and Stacey Cagwin for all the work, they have done on this book and in my ministry.

To Rev Tim Worden, Paul Worden who are supporters of my ministry and who have given me inspiration and encouragement.

To everyone, I give my deepest Thanks.

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Prayer Stoppers

Chapter 1

You are not saved.

God does not hear the prayers of a sinner unless it is a prayer of repentance. This is the first and only prayer of an unsaved person God will hear, and that is a prayer of repentance. Until you have prayed, and ask God to forgive you of your sins, and you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, God will not, and can not hear your prayers.

God does not hear the prayer of an unbeliever. I don't care if your wife, husband, daughter, son, mother or father are on their death bed, and the only one who can save them is God, God can not, and will not hear your cry to spare their life, because you yourself are not saved. No, we are not all Gods children, and not all of mankind is God's children. Only those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior is a child of God.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden man from that point on was separated from God. When Jesus came and died on the cross for our sins; this is when He united man once again with God our heavenly Father, but only by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and by repenting of our sins.

Until we pray the prayer of repentance God cannot hear us.

John 9:31 KJV

"Now we know God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth."

1 Peter 3:12 KJV

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

"

Psalms 66:18 KJV

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me;"

Isaiah 59:1, 2 KJV

1 "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:" 2 "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Therefore the remedy for sin is found in: 1 John 1:9, 10 KJV *"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."* Roman 10:9,10 *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." 10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

Your very first step to having fellowship with God, and to have your prayers answered is to repent of your sins. This holds true for Christians also. If there is any sin in your life, it will hinder your prayers from being answered. We need to ask God to show us the sin or sins in our life, so that we may repent of that sin(s) and then turn our back on that sin(s).

It is one thing to repent of our sins, but if we are not willing to turn our backs on that sin, and forsake that sin then our prayer of repentance are nothing but mere words and we will not be forgiven.

2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV 17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. When the Pharisees brought the woman who committed adultery before Jesus and said: according to the law of Moses this woman who committed adultery should be stoned to death, but instead of saying yes you are right she should be stoned; Jesus stooped down and began to write, and then stood up and said: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." And then stooped back down and wrote some more in the sand, and while he was writing everyone left him and the woman alone.

What did Jesus say to the woman? He said to her in John 8:10-11 KJV 10
"When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

Jesus at that moment forgave her of her sins and told her to go and sin no more. In other words, he was telling her to turn her back on sin and do not go, and commit adultery, and do not partake of the sins you were involved with again. This is what he is telling you and I we are to turn our back on sin.

We are to reject sin. Does this mean that you will never sin again or that you will never be forgiven again? No, it does not, but if we will die out to the flesh we can not sin. If we do sin all we need to do is come to Jesus Christ and repent of that sin and turn from that sin by not partaking of that sin, then we are forgiven.

Chapter 2

Lying

If you have broken any commandments in your life that you have not repented of then you need to repent of those sins, so your prayers can and will be answered. If you say I have not broken any of Gods Commandments then you just lied, and you broke one commandment which is found in Exodus 20:16 *"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."* and in Colossians 3:9 *"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;"*

When we were children, it was that period we learned to lie. I remember when I was a child, and I told a lie, my mother, not only spanked me but she washed my mouth out with soap. That's when parents had control of there children, and the jails were not overcrowded. As a child, we learn how to lie to try and stay out of trouble even though ninety-nine percent of the time it never did keep us out of trouble and our parents would punish us in one form or another for that lie.

A lie is a lie, and there is no difference between a good lie and a bad lie, a white lie and a black lie. Lies are from Satan in any degree; the bible says that Satan is a liar and the father of lies. A lie is a lie and will prevent you from getting your prayers answered.

Revelation 21:8 *8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.* As an adult is where we get ourselves in trouble and the training of our childhood good or bad manifests itself in us.

This is where the sinful nature of man is working at its best even in those who think they are upright and law-abiding and are outstanding Christians as the person next door. How many times have the phone rang and someone else answers the phone only it is for you, but you tell the one who answered the phone: "just tell whoever it is that I am not here" and you walk off thinking nothing of it? That is a lie. It is not a white lie or a black lie, but a condemning lie, and unless we repent of that lie it will send you to the lake of fire that the

Bible speaks about in Revelation 21:8 We have a sinful nature and lying seems to be a part of that nature. If you will examine yourself you will find how much you do lie. We make a mistake and to cover that mistake we will lie to keep from getting in trouble, or to have someone think bad about us.

It is a condemning lie. We commit adultery we will lie to not hurt the other person. We see one of our family member or a close friend do something wrong, when we are asked about it we will say no we did not see anything to keep that person out of trouble. That is a lie, or we may lie to keep from hurting someone, but even though we have good intentions it is a lie and it will condemn us. You want answers from God repent of those lies.

Chapter 3

Making Promises

Making a promise to someone and not keeping it, is a Lie. Making a covenant with God and not keeping it is also a lie. This will stop your prayers from being answered. I have learned in life that you never promise anything unless you intend to keep that promise. My kids taught me this hard lesson, because when you make a promise to a child, they really are expecting you to keep your word, and do just as you promised. When you don't they will say: "but dad," or "but mom," you promised, and then come to tears. Sooner or later you will lose the trust of that child.

God is the same way. When you make a promise to God or a covenant with God you better keep it or your prayers will fall on deaf ears. You make a promise; do your very best to keep it. There will be times when you can not keep that promise, but when you are able to and just don't do it, it becomes a sin and a lie, and it will hinder the answers for your prayers.

I grew up being taught: "Your word is your bond" Today a person's word means nothing unless that person has promised me something. Did you get what I just said? I said: "Today a person's word means nothing unless that person has promised me something." In other words; If you make me a promise you best keep that promise, but if I make you a promise I may or may not keep my promise.

We make promises to each other, and then the first sign of trouble or struggle we will then break that promise and refuse to keep our word.

You see this kind of attitude today in our marriages. We take our vows very lightly as we stand there making promises to each other. We made promises to each other as we stood before that minister, or justice of the peace, or whomever. Those vows you and your mate took were promises that you made to each other and at the same time, you made those same vows (promises) to God. What you have done is entered a covenant (a contract) with each other, and you made a very serious promise to have and to hold in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in riches or in poverty, in good times and in bad times until death you part.

Not only did we enter a contract, and made a promise with the person we married, but also with God. You not only made promises to your husband or wife, but you also made those promises to God. But today we refuse to keep our promises to each other, and we get a divorce the moment we hit hard times in our marriages. All we are doing is making the divorce lawyers richer and you poorer.

It's not only in our marriages but in all aspects of life. We all have at some point or another failed to keep our word. When I was growing up if I made a promise to someone my parents would make sure I kept that promise. I remember one time I made a promise to mow someone's lawn on a certain day, at a certain time, and my parents heard me. When that day came no matter what else came up unless I was in the hospital or dead; my parents made me keep my promise to that person. They would say: "son a man's word is his bond, and if he refuses to keep his word he is a useless human being." That saying always kept with me. Even for something as small as telling someone, I will call you.

No matter how big or how small of a promise you make, if you break that promise God will not answer your prayers. I am not only talking about a promise you made to God, but also the promise you made to another human being, saved, or unsaved.

To many time we will make promises to God, and we shouldn't unless we truly intend to keep that promise word for word, because God will hold you to that promise, and he will hold you to every detail of the promise and if you break it he will not answer your prayers until you fulfill your promises to him.

Three of my pet peeves are One: when a person says they will call you or will call you back at a certain day or time but never do. It's a lie. Two: When a person tells me they will be at our meeting place at a certain time, but is either late or never shows up. That is a lie. Three: when some say I will do this or I will do that for you but just never gets around to doing it; never seems to complete anything they say they will do. It too is a lie and all these lies will condemn you to the lake of fire.

I have had several people tell me: Ron God has told me to tithe to this church or that ministry, and they may a couple times or so but then it stops. First off if God told you to tithe to a church or a ministry then you better do it or you are being disobedient to God. If you tell someone God told me to tithe to this church or join this church then you best do it or you will be both lying and disobedient to God. God does not change his mind and when it comes to tithing he never will change his mind so you best do as he commanded you to do.

We often say God told me to do this or to do that, but that fact is God never told you anything, and it has become a lie. You not only lied to the person you were telling it to but you lied and said God told something when in fact he did not tell anything. It is not only a lie but you took the Lord's name in vain and it will condemn you to the lake of fire.

Not keeping your promises will stop your prayers from being answered. Keep your word! When you do not keep your word it is lying.

Chapter 4

Gossip

Gossip is another form of lies. Gossips are made up of half or no truths only. When the truth doesn't paint the picture we want to see and believe about that person we tend to expand on that painting until we have it where we like it to make ourselves feel better for one selfish reason or another. When the truth becomes a half-truth or we make it into one big lie then this is Gossip, and it is Satan's form of a Lie. Gossip is a lie that we need to repent if we desire Gods answers to our prayers.

Gossip not only hurts a person we are talking about, but it will, in the end, hurt us in more ways than one. Gossip will destroy a lot of innocent people in a hurry, I have seen Gossip take people's lives and destroy it, not only destroy the person they are gossiping about but it also destroys the one who is doing the Gossiping. Many people have committed suicide because of someone's Gossiping and speak lies about that person.

How many times have you had to explain to someone about a false story that was going around about what they say you have done or said that was not true? It was a lie; someone has taken the truth and twisted it to make it sound much better or much worse than what it really was. Gossips are lies straight from hell, and it will stop your prayers from being answered and it will stop the blessings of God upon your life.

Some of us gossip and not even know we are gossiping. Many times we will get in the middle of the conversation, and we hear what we feel are keywords out of that conversation. Then we take what we are sure we heard to be true and make it one of the biggest lies ever to come out of our mouths. Instead of going to that person to get our facts straight; we let our imagination run wild, and all it has done was create a big lie that not only hurt the person involved, but it also hurt you. It destroyed your reputation of being an honest person, and it stops your prayers from being answered.

Satan is an expert at gossip, and he will paint that picture in your mind to make you believe it is true. We are not to go around talking about anyone. I have enough problems in my life to deal with; I don't need to compound it with Gossip.

Proverbs 18 6-8 *"A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes."*

7 *"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."*

8 *"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."*

Proverbs 20:19 *"He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."*

Ephesians 4:29-32 *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*

30 *"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.”*

Chapter 5

Fighting with your spouse

Fighting with your spouse will hinder your prayers. You and your spouse can have a disagreement, and that is not a sin. When it becomes a sin is when you hold a grudge against that person, or when the words: "I am sorry" never comes out of your mouth especially when you know you are wrong, or when you finally realize you are in the wrong. This will hinder your prayer and stop all blessing.

When you do not forgive your spouse even though they never asked you for forgiveness it will stop your prayers from being answered. Going to bed angry at each other will stop your prayers from being answered. This is when you need to get on your knees and ask God to forgive you for not being forgiving, and at the same time forgive your spouse or whoever it was that hurt you.

Ephesians 4:26,27 26 *"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:"*

27 *"Neither give place to the devil."*

Ephesians 4:29-32 29 *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*

30 *"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."

You and your spouse need to agree to disagree, and when you do disagree with each other, you turn your disagreements over to the Lord. When you turn your disagreements over to the Lord, your prayer should not be God deal with your spouse to make them see the light, because they are wrong and you are right, but you should pray: God turn on the searchlight of heaven on my soul, and show me where I am wrong.

Love your spouse, and pray; God please deal with that person the way you see fit to deal with him or her, but show me oh God where I am wrong, and what areas I need to change and improve in my own life, and in my marriage to make me a better person a better husband or wife and help me to understand my husband or my wife.

Until we as a husband and wife are in line with Ephesians chapter 5:21-33 we can not expect God to hear us and to bless us.

In verse 21 we are to submit one to another. Paul is talking to every Christian in this verse and not just to the husband and wife. We as Christians are to submit one to another: we are to uplift one another, pray for one another; we don't need to be making rules for one another, but to love and help each other to follow the commandments of God, to follow the rules God made for us and by praying one for another, and loving one another with that acting love which is the perfect love of Christ.

We can do the act of love and never have the love for one another, but God is talking about acting love which is the love of God. Christ acting love is what took him to the cross, and to die for our sins. God the Father showed his acting love when he sent his Son Jesus Christ to come to earth in the flesh of a man to die for our sins and on the third day raised Jesus from the grave.

Christ acting love sent the Holy Ghost to fill us with his power, and to be our teacher, our conscience and our guide. To comfort us and to lead us through life's heartaches. This acting love (perfect love) the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) uses to bring us in line with God's Word. It is what he uses to comfort us, to make us strong, to chastise us, to tell us how we are to act in any given situation and what we are to say in the different situations. He instructs us by giving us the understanding of the bible and how to apply it to our daily living.

This type of love; This acting love, and not the act of love, this perfect love of God is what we as Christians are to show one to another. This perfect love, this acting love is what we are to show to our husband and to our wives. This acting love is when you are willing to lay your life down for your husband or wife. When you do not allow anything or anyone come between you and your spouse

Wives you are to "submit" to your Husbands. In **Verse 22- 24: 22** *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Wives are to place themselves under the authority of their husbands. Understand that submission, or to submit is an act of choice even though it is a commandment of God yet it is still a right of choice, and it is also an acting love. You can choose not to submit to your husband, but you will also have to give an account to God and pay the consequences for being disobedient to God.

When God created man, he created man to be a ruler over all of Gods creation on this earth. God made man ruler even before he created woman from the rib of man. Therefore wives are to in subjection to their husbands, and not place herself in the authority over her husband. She is to be obedient to her husband as Christ was to his heavenly Father, and as the church is to Christ.

Does this mean that if the husband is sinning, and he demands that you partake of that sin with him or condone the sin he is doing that you are to be obedient and submit to him? No, you are not. You are to forsake all sin. You are to follow the Laws of Christ, you are to follow the commandments of God. It is your duty though to show that perfect love, that acting love toward your husband, by praying for him, by forgiving him, by speaking to him about his problem, and by living your life before him in that perfect love of God. By setting that example on how a Christian is to live.

Husbands, you are to love your wives as the church love Christ and as Christ loves us and his heavenly father.

Ephesians 5: 25-28 KJV

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Husbands, you are to love your wives, just as Jesus loved the church and died for the church so should you be willing to protect and die for your wife. Husbands, it is your duty to be spiritual leaders of the home and not your wife's job. You are the one who should lead in prayer and in the family bible study. You are the one to see to it that your family gathers together for prayer and bible study not your wife's.

Wives, did you read what I said? I said: it is the Husbands duty to be the spiritual leader of the home, and if he is saved and capable of doing so then you must allow him to do so and to push him to take the role as the head of your marriage and head of the home.

Men, you are to love your wife as your own bodies. If you are hungry you will eat. If you are sick and need attention you give yourself that attention. This should be your first duty toward your wife. If you pamper yourself? You should pamper your wife. If you keep from danger spiritually and physically so should you protect your wife spiritually and physically?

Did you notice I also said spiritually? Because we seem to forget that we need not only to protect ourselves spiritually but also our wives. We are to pray for our wives, teach our wives the things of the Lord and we are to do as the Bible teaches and we are to live, act, as a man who has Christ in him.

Ephesians 5: 29-33 KJV

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Husbands you are to leave father and mother and to be joined to your wife and become as one. The word joined or cleave means to be glued together as one. A good wood craftsman knows how to take two pieces of wood and join them together and make the two one. He uses the finest glue to make sure that it is a lasting bond, so it will never come apart. That glue has certain ingredients to make it have a lasting bonding. When we bond with or cleave to our wife we do so not only in love but with the word of God and prayer.

Just as the Godhead pleases each other in everything, and they always uplift each other; so should you and your spouse; please each other, and uplift each other, because the bible says you two are one flesh. The Godhead is always in one mind, and in one accord with each other. When one of the Godhead does anything he will always do it to complements and pleases the other two.

You and your spouse should complement each other in everything. Of course, you are human, and you will fail, and you will hurt each other from time to time, but forgive and make it right. I am sorry should always be the first words come out of your mouth not only to God but to the person you hurt. Sin, whether you are a Christian or not, will stop all prayers from being answered except the prayer of repentance.

Ephesians 5:33

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Chapter 6

Your Prayer Life Or The Lack Of

Having a very weak or no prayer life will stop all prayers from being answered. I know some of you are saying I don't have time for a prayer life with my work, school, kids, husband, wife, home, time with my friends, Football, fixing myself up, and putting on my face takes a long time; and what about shopping? Do you know how many stores I must go to, to get the best deals? And the list goes on and on.

But the fact remains; you can not afford not to have a prayer life. Pastors if you have a weak or no prayer life God will not hear or bless your home or your ministry. We must make our prayer life number one and make it stronger.

I don't know how to pray...

Not knowing how to pray, will affect your prayer life, because you will become discouraged stop praying altogether, and this will hinder God answers, but don't feel ashamed because even Jesus disciples did not know how to pray. The bible says the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus Talks about prayer and our prayer life. Verses 1-8 Jesus is preparing us for the Lords Prayer.

Matthew 6:1-8 *"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven."*

2 "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

3 *“But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:”*

4 *“That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.”*

5 *“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”*

6 *“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”*

7 *“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.”*

He begins by telling his disciples not to do alms before men; in other words what you give to God or what you do to help someone whether it is with food, money, or some gift, you are not to go out and blow your own horn about it. People will see what you do, and if they don't, the bible says what you do in secret God will reward you openly. Do not let anyone know what you are doing or what you did. It may hinder your prayer from being answered by God.

Matthew 6:5, 6: *“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”*

6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Jesus tells us not to stand in churches or where people can see you and pray long prayers. God doesn't care to hear long needles words you don't impress him one bit, and it will be prayers going unanswered.

Jesus said we are to enter our prayer closet, and we are to shut the door and pray to the Father which is in secret, and your Father which sees you praying in secret will reward you openly. Some of you are thinking right now: "Man you have not seen my closet; it is so full if I open the door everything will come rushing out, and it will take me 2 months to find the front door. Don't worry that's not what Jesus was talking about. He is saying go someplace where you can be alone with God without being disturbed.

Let's take a closer look at the meaning of "Prayer Closet". Closet comes from the Greek word *tameion* which means a dispensary, a storehouse, an inner room, a storeroom, and secret chambers.

I get up early in the morning while everyone is asleep, and I come into my workroom, and there I get on my knees before God. You say: I have no place in the house to go and be alone? Then go for a walk, go to the park, or out in the country, or to the mountains, or even your back porch, or back yard.

Moses went to the Mountain, and so did Jesus who also went to the garden to pray. It doesn't matter where you go to pray as long as you can be alone with your heavenly Father. Sometimes my prayer closet is when I am going down the highway, or walking outside. It can be walking along the beach, or going downtown. Prayer closet is not a physical room. Prayer closet is anywhere you can be alone with God. A prayer closet is a place we are to go to every day, and not just once in a while.

This should be a place where you can shut out the world, and where no one can see you. Jesus is saying: go in secret to the storeroom of the heavenly Father, and there make your request known to him. This storehouse and dispensary of God are where you have your needs met it's where you can go for your healing and the healing of others.

Why must we go in secret and why must we shut the door? To go in secret where no one can hear or see you so you can earnestly pray from the heart. There you will not only be honest with God but also with yourself. There you will speak from your heart, and make your needs, and request the desires of your heart, and tell God what is in your heart.

To shut the door: We not only need to shut out the noise around us, but we need to also close the door of our minds. We are to enter that prayer closet not worried about the cares of this life, and not to worry about food, clothes, and shelter, or the problem at hand, but to come to the storehouse with confidence and boldness so that when we walk out of that storehouse of God; He will send the supplies we need. We are to shut everything out so we can allow God to speak to us and to show us what we are to do. To find our Gods perfect will for our life.

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

We are to walk in as one of his children, and boldly ask him for what we are in need of, and what our desires are; not only for your own needs but for the needs of others, and for the needs of your church or ministry.

Jesus also tells us not to use vain repetitions (to Babble or to chant, say meaningless words) you don't do it to your parents so why do it to your heavenly Father? He doesn't want to hear babbling or vain repetitions. He only wants you to be honest and humble when you pray.

Your heavenly Father knows what you need before you ask him, so don't go on, and on, thinking that you're chanting or you're repetitious prayers will get Him to answer, because He will not hear you and he will not respond.

How many times have you been to church and you hear someone pray, and it seems like they are out to make themselves known, or they think God will only listen to words that are perfect and holy? Sometimes their prayers are longer than the sermon itself. How many of you when called upon to pray try to sound like you are sacred, and you find yourself searching in your mind as you are praying for the perfect words, because we want to make it seem better than the last person who prayed, or we wanted our prayer to be longer, because it will make us look more holy? Be honest now, because God knows the secret of your heart. I have until I found out how foolish I was because God searches the heart to see what you are saying is the truth. Praying a prayer that is meaningless, God will not hear or honor.

Prayer must come from the heart and not from the mind or some prayer book. I have asked people to pray, and many have said to me: "I don't know what to say when I pray." I tell them; look in your heart and pray from there, because this is where God looks. I would rather have someone who says they do not know how to pray, or what words to pray, to pray for me, because they pray from the heart, and pray with meaning.

If you do not spend time in your prayer closet, it will hinder your answers from God. Jesus said we are to pray "Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6:11. The Lord is saying: go to the storehouse of God every day. Where? To your prayer closet, and there ask your heavenly Father to meet your needs for that day.

What God sees in secret he will reward you openly; in front of everybody. Whatever is in your heart God sees; so when you go to your prayer closet do not do so out of obligation, or for a show, or to hurry up and get out, because it will hinder, and stop God from listening to you. He sees the secrets of your heart even when you can't. He knows your intentions, and he knows how sincere you are when you come to him. So go to your prayer closet to be with your heavenly Father. Go there to first give him Honor, Praise, and Worship. Then ask him for your needs or the desires of your heart. Ask him to turn on the searchlights in your heart, and show you what is not pleasing to him so you can repent of it, and so your prayers will be answered.

How to apply the Lord's Prayer to our prayer life.

The Lord's prayer to our prayer life. Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, and in what fashion we should pray. There are certain principles in the Lord's prayer that Jesus was teaching us, and not following those principles could hinder our prayers. Why would it hinder our prayer or stop God from answering? We will get into this as we now go to the Lord's Prayer.

We received a warning from Jesus that we are not to do our alms before men, and we are not to pray as the hypocrites do. In Jesus time the hypocrites were the Pharisees who were the religious leaders of that time or the spiritual leaders. Today he is calling many of our churches, and spiritual leader, and our religious leader hypocrites. Sad to say, but it seems every church has a few. Just because your church may have a few hypocrites does not mean that you should stop going to that church, or that you should run them off.

My dad pastor a church, and someone came up to him and asked him why he didn't run off certain people who were hypocrites? His answer was: what better place than a church for a hypocrite, gossipers, drunkards, and the worst sinner in the world; as long as they are in this church I have a chance to reach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In **Matthew 6: 9-13, KJV** verse 9 says: *"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." V10: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." V.11: "Give us this day our daily bread." V.12. "And forgive us our Debts as we forgive our debtors." V.13 "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."*

"After this manner therefore pray ye:"

Jesus said to use this prayer as a pattern when you pray. "Our Father which art in heaven," Our Father, the head of the God Head, the Supreme Being. The God in the highest heaven. He is the supreme God the highest God. No one ever was, and no one ever will be greater than our heavenly Father.

“Hallowed be thy name.”

Holy is your name, sacred is your name, greatly revered and honored, made holy; consecrated. God the Father is Holy, and his name is Holy. We are to respect and bow down in the presence of our Holy God. We are to fear him and worship him.

“Thy kingdom come.”

It did not say Thy kingdom will come it said: “Thy kingdom come.” With a period right after come. Thy kingdom come “period.” Jesus did not say thy kingdom will come; he said, thy kingdom come. His kingdom, is already here, Jesus Christ is that kingdom, and soon we will crown him King Of all kings, and Lord of all lords and his kingdom will be complete when the last soul has been won. We are to be busy, and we are to seek God on what he wants us to do to expand his kingdom. We are not to sit on the fence, and do nothing. We are to work and to give of ourselves, and we are to give our tithes and offerings toward his kingdom. When that final hour, that last minute, that final second which God so ordained has come, then his Kingdom will be complete, But in the meantime, we are to be busy taking the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world to every creature.

“Thy will be done in heaven.”

Gods perfect will is always done in heaven, what God so speaks, and whatever he commands; it is done without question, and without choice. Only God makes the choices in heaven.

“So in earth.”

Why did He not say thy will be done in heaven, and in earth? On earth man has choices, and we have the right not to have the will of God in our lives, our home, our government, our world. So you need to ask that Gods will be done in all things. Because when the Fathers will is done in your life, and in your world; there will be fewer trials in your life, and God will answer your prayers. If we don't seek Gods will for our lives, then it will hinder our prayers. We will discuss Gods will and our will when we are praying, later on in this book. So when you pray always ask for Gods will, and seek Gods will for your life, your marriage, your family, your job, your home, and your ministry.

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

Jesus is saying to us; to ask our heavenly Father to meet the needs of our lives for that day. (note we are to come before God every day for our daily bread.). It shows God that we depend upon him to provide for us and that we acknowledge God as our heavenly Father. As children when we were home under our mother and father's roof, we depended upon our father to provide for us. We depended on him to provide us a home, food, and clothing. He also, gave us what we asked for many times. He often gives to his children the desire of our hearts, and so will of our heavenly Father. We should, and must depend upon him with every part of our lives. Give us this day our daily bread, we should not be worried about tomorrow, next week, next month or even a year or two down the line, but we are to ask Him to meet our needs today. Why ask for tomorrow when you may not be here tomorrow, or you may not need it tomorrow.

This is why we are to enter our prayer closet, and we are to come into the storehouse of God, and we are to go into the presence of the one and only Holy God. There we are to present our request for our daily needs. Don't be afraid to name off your needs. Tell God what you are in need of, have your list ready

“Forgive us our Debts,” or “Forgive us our sins”:

The word debts mean “Sin.” We owe God a great debt, and through Jesus Christ, our debts were paid on the cross by the shedding of his blood. When we go to Jesus Christ and ask him to forgive us of our sins, and all our shortcomings. The Father through the blood of his Son Jesus Christ will forgive us of that debt we owe; our sins will be forgiven. It is crucial that we always ask the Father through his Son Jesus Christ to forgive us of our sins to wipe away that great debt we owe. We are all human and even though we may be Christians, and we follow Christ, we still struggle with the flesh, and at times we will fall, and this is why we are to ask for forgiveness, so our hearts are pure before our Heavenly Father.

Romans 8:1-13 KJV *1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

2. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4. That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7. 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.*

10. *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

11. *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

12. *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.*

13. *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

If you don't repent it will stop your prayers from being answered.

"As we forgive our debtors" or as we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.

I want you to pay attention to this part because so many people have a problem with this part of the prayer. If you do not forgive, God will not hear your prayers. You can pray from now until the Lord comes, and if you do not forgive, your prayers will fall on deaf ears. If you want forgiveness, and if you want your prayers answered, then you must forgive those who have hurt you, and who do you wrong. This is not an option, but you must forgive if you want forgiveness and if you want your prayers to be answered.

I have heard so many people tell me so many reasons why they can not forgive. One that comes to mind is my husband or wife committed adultery, and I can not forgive them for this. Yes it does cause you great pain, and you will always wonder why he or she did this to you, and you will hurt, but you must forgive that person. You must forgive because if you don't your prayers will fall on deaf ears. Someone murdered your child, yes you are hurting, and you suffered a significant loss, but you must forgive that person even if they never ask you to forgive them, or your prayers will fall on deaf ears.

Forgive Let God deal with that person or persons. Don't let them rob you of Gods blessing for your life. You are not to judge that is only God's job and he will be the one to deal with that person. God did not put a condition on when you are to forgive or not to forgive he said you must forgive.

You must forgive, but at the same time you may never forget, and you are to use the wisdom that God is willing to give to you to not get back into that type of situation again.

"Lead us not into temptation" Now please do not mistake this part, because God tempts no one, neither will he lead you into temptation. Here, he is saying do not lead us into trials so deep that we might lose our faith in God, do not lead us so deep in trials that we are tempted to do as the world does, and stop communicating with our Father in heaven. He is saying, Do not allow Satan to get control or harm us and rob us.

“But deliver us from evil” deliver us from Satan's power and from his evil empire his evil government. His demons will deceive you into believing God has turned his back on you, and your trust turns from God, and you start to do things on your own, when you do as you will, and not the will of the Father in heaven. When you are in these trials, Satan will paint you a picture of hopelessness, and therefore you will not follow the will of the Lord. We need to start now to put our trust in God, and when the trials come, you will be able to keep your trust in Him. Trust in God for everything not just when a big problem comes your way, or when you have a crisis in your life. God is a God of Deliverance, and he will deliver us from all temptation and from the power of Satan.

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the Glory, forever. Amen” We are to give God the praises he so deserves we are to recognize his greatness and his awesome power, and that his greatness, and his mercy, and his power are not just for today, but is forever and ever. It was the power of God that all things were created. We are to take the time to praise and worship God and to sing praises unto him. If you do not worship and praise God, it will hinder our prayers

Chapter 7

You Are Not Studying Your Bible

The bible is not only a book with many good words, but it is God's love letter to us, a rule book, a road map to eternal life, and to a good life and prosperity here on earth. The Bible tells us how to live and be happy. How to raise your children, it is a book of correction, and it is the only book in the world that will never be outdated. The bible deals with every issue of the day and time. Adam and Eve fell and separated themselves, and all of mankind from God. The Bible tells us how we can reunite ourselves with God through Jesus Christ.

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

How can Gods words abide in us? Only, and I mean just, by you reading and studying his word (the Bible). Prayer life is part of the fellowship with God. We are to get into the bible to find out not only his plan for our lives but also to know the will of God. To equipped us to fight Satan with the word of God. You can not have fellowship with God if you are not into his word, and yes this will hinder your prayers from being answered. God will answer our prayers through the bible. I have often gone to Gods word after asking God for something, or to help me with a problem, and he would show me the answer in the bible.

Believe it or not, there are ministers or pastors who very seldom open the bible to study, and it shows in their daily life because God is not answering their prayers, I want a pastor who is grounded in Gods Word. Not one who reads it now and then. I want a pastor who has a personal fellowship with our heavenly Father.

How can you as a pastor help the sheep God has given you charge over to have a closer walk with God if you are not into his word daily? When you are not grounded in Gods word and when you do not spend time in his word leaves the door wide open for Satan to use his tactics to deceive you into believing a lie.

This is why we have so many false teachings today, because the one teaching it is not grounded in the Bible, and not living according to the bible.

This is why each and every person should be grounded in the Bible; if you are not rooted in God's word then how will you know if what your pastor is teaching and preaching is true? Each and every one of us was born to be teachers. How we live our lives teaches not only our children how to live but others around us.

Do not depend on me or your pastor or any minister or teacher to get you your answers from God or to show you where the answers are, because it is your duty to be grounded in Gods word, it is your duty to search the bible for the answers. Get in the word of God because there you will find many answers to your prayers.

Chapter 8

Not keeping Gods Commandments.

Part of the reason we do not keep Gods Commandment is because of our Prayer life or the lack of.. How can you know what God's commandments are if we do not read and study Gods word and spend time in your prayer closet to allow God to speak and teach you his commandments?

Breaking and not keeping Gods commandments will stop all prayers from being answered.

I John 3:22 KJV *"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in his sight."*

God has given us commandments to live by as an individual, as a people, as a nation, as a church, as a world and it is all found in the Bible. Not only are we to follow these commandments, but Jesus added a couple of more to the list of commandments.

Remember reading in the Lord's prayer Jesus said we are to forgive those who do you wrong? Jesus added to that commandment in **John 13: 34 KJV** when he said: *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."* Jesus came right out and said: I am giving you a new commandment that you love one another and not just that you love one another, but that you love one another as I have loved you. Not only are you to forgive that person, but you are to love that person, and not only are you to love that person but you are to love that person as Christ loves you, this is also an acting love.

Now before we move on I want us to understand this commandment, it is a fundamental commandment; If Jesus didn't think it was imperative then he would not have stated in **John 14:15 KJV** *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

He stated again we must love one another read John 15:1-27 and he said it again in I John 3:23 to love one another.

I John 3:22-24 KJV *"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."*

23 "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."

24 "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

Husbands just as Jesus commanded you to love your wife, he also commanded you to love everyone. Wives just as Jesus commanded your husband to love you, he also commanded you to love him and everyone else. This is a commandment Jesus gave to every man, woman, and child, to love one another.

If you noticed Jesus did not stop there with just love one another, but to love one another as he loved us. Jesus never ran anyone down, He never gossips, or called anyone bad names, He never said to one person: don't bother me I am tired. Jesus never judged anyone, because of their personal sins. Jesus never cursed anyone.

Jesus went out preaching, and teaching, and doing good. He healed the sick, made the lame to walk, raised the dead, and cast out demons. When Peter cut off the right ear of the high priest's servant, named Malchus; Jesus did not say to him; you got what you deserved; even though the servant may have deserved to die, after all, he was taking Jesus to his death. Yet Jesus loved that man and healed his ear.

Love one another is a commandment, not a request, next time you snap at someone ask yourself this question: Did Jesus snap at those beating him, or those who drove the nails into his hands and feet?

Remember that person who hurt you, and did you wrong? Did God command you to forgive? Yes, he did. Now you are to love that person and love that person as Christ loved you? Yes, you are. Are you willing to die for that person so that person could live? I don't mean in the Spiritual sense either. I mean if this person life was threatened are you willing to lay your life down so that person can live? Jesus did. Why? Only because of his love for you personally; he was willing to die for you.

You say well, of course, Jesus could love like that, after all, he is God. No, Jesus was God made flesh, Jesus took on the human flesh, and blood, and because Jesus was in this fleshly body he was stripped of all heavenly power. Jesus alone had no power. But wait a minute the bible says: Jesus turned water into wine, he healed the sick, raised the dead, walked on water and fed the 5000 with just a few fish, and a few loaves of bread. Sounds like Godly powers to me; I know I can't do it. You are right; it was Godly powers, but not his strength.

Jesus received his power from God, his heavenly Father to do all of the miracles; just like you and I can. How? Jesus was in constant communication with God. Jesus went every day and entered his prayer closet to talk and have fellowship with his heavenly Father. Jesus prayed, and praised, and worshiped his Father 24/7 just like you and I can. If you set it in your heart to be in constant communication with God; you too can do as Jesus did, because it will not be your power, but Gods power. If you are in Gods perfect will continuously, then you can do as Jesus did.

Jesus gave glory to God, and not to himself. Jesus kept God's entire commandments and did so to please his heavenly Father. Jesus has done nothing to glorify himself, but everything he did was for, and to give glory to God the Father; same as you and I should be doing.

I am amused at some of the people who believe God has called them in the ministry, but when you read their bio or when they are advertising their ministry they will list a whole page of their worldly accomplishments as if this will draw people to them. Or when they pray for someone and that person is healed they seem to leave God out of the process, as though the only way to be healed is to come to them so they can heal you. This is not giving Glory to God. We must keep ourselves out of the picture, and we are to give praises to God.

Jesus did not bring attention to himself he brought attention to his heavenly Father. Jesus knew Gods word, and he used Gods word to teach and to rebuke. Jesus also had a good prayer life he was in constant communication with his heavenly Father. Jesus set the example for us to follow.

If we are to follow Gods commandment and love one another, then we must be willing to lay our life down for that person or persons even if that person has tormented and abused you.

Most of us know the Ten Commandments That God gave us in the Exodus 20. These commandments were not only given to a nation to live by but also to each and every individual on the face of the earth. If you understand nothing else, I want you to understand what I am about to say to you right now.

Obeying Gods commandment, and Obeying Christ commandment, is more natural than we think. Yes, Satan will tempt you to break all of these commandments, but Christ gave you the power to overcome Satan's temptations. If you will make an agreement with yourself right here, and right now, that you will before doing anything else each and every day, get into your prayer closet, shut that door to distraction and people, and spend time with your heavenly Father. Talk to God, and seek God's righteousness, and ask for his wisdom and his knowledge. Ask him for your needs of the day, and not only your physical needs but also your spiritual needs, and for the needs of others. Then get out of that closet and study your bible spend time in his word. Put a song in your heart and praises on your lips to God Almighty.

When you do, and you genuinely are faithful to God, he will give you that perfect love. You will find yourself developing that acting love; This love that is in constant action towards others this love will love the worst human being on the face of the earth. Not only will you have that perfect love towards others, but also that perfect love toward God. You will find yourself wanting more and more of God and his righteousness.

His second Commandment was to go, and preach, and teach, the Gospel around the world. He speaks of this in Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15 and in Acts 10:42. We are to go to the entire world to teach everyone to observe Jesus commandments and baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Ghost. We are to preach that salvation message, the good news to everyone.

Mathew 28:18-20 KJV *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in the earth."*

19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Acts 10:42 KJV *"And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead."*

Mark 16:15 KJV *"...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

You may say I don't know how to preach or teach so how can I do this? You can help but being in your prayer closet and praying for those who are out there preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You can help take the gospel around the world by giving of your tithes and offering. Spreading the Gospel takes money, and if you refuse to give your tithes and offering to God, it will stop your prayers, and believe it or not if you do not pay your tithes, and give you're offering to God, and to his work makes you a thief according to

Malachi 3:8-10 KJV *"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."

10 "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".

I didn't say it. God, Himself said it as you just read.

Ten percent (10%) of your wages go to God right off the top. This is not an option; there is no negotiating this with God. That first 10% goes directly to God, and if you don't give it, you are a thief, and it will stop your prayers from being answered. You may say: "Hey that is hard!" if I give that to God how will I eat? How can I pay my bills? I have kids at home, and they have needs. They need college, and I have to save for their education, I can't afford to pay tithes. Maybe someday when I get a better job, or my kids are grown I can pay tithes. Let me put it to you like this, God feeds those who honor him, and who don't rob him. He will feed you better than what you are being fed by not giving God his ten percent (10%). He promised you that he would bless you if you pay your tithes.

Let's reread verse ten 10 "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".

Malachi 3:10 NIV *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."*

If your employer stopped paying you or paid you whatever they felt like at the time, or whenever they felt like it; you would stop working for them. Even if they asked you, and begged you to come back to work; you would refuse to do so unless they promise to pay you at your rate of pay every time and on time. God is the same way. That Pastor, That minister, that teacher deserved to be paid, and part of those times goes to their support. That 10% is not yours, it is Gods, and if you are a Christian, and are not faithful in paying your tithes; shame on you.

God will get it from you one way or another only when God takes it from you (all because you refuse to pay your tithes) it will cost you much more than that 10% you refused to give God.

If you do not pay your tithes, you can beg God, and plead with God to answer your prayers. It won't happen God will not respond until you repent, and you start being faithful to him and pay your tithes. That first ten percent (10%) is not yours, it is Gods. Look at it this way. Let's say you have a son or daughter who would get into your wallet, and take money from you every week without asking, and then turn around, and ask you for help, and ask you for money; you would probably say no I am sorry, I don't help thieves. You robbed me; you took money that didn't belong to you. I will not help you.

Chapter 9

Selfish and Improper Motives

James 4:1-3 KJV *“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?”*

2 “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.”

Lust, our own lust, and the lust of the world will stop your prayers from being answered. Christians who become self-righteous, or disagree with a church or a pastor or a group of people will often set out to prove they are right and will do so to bring the spotlight to themselves, and not to God.

We are seeing this more and more today; so many churches, organizations have started up today, because of a disagreement they are having. They are in a battle to prove that they are right and that the other person, or church, or group, is wrong. They have declared war on that person or group.

I am not saying that the person or group is wrong by separating themselves from a church, or group, or even a person, who may now have false teachings, but most of the time the problem is; we do it not to bring God back to center stage, but to put ourselves in the spotlight. This will hinder your prayers from being answered.

The first thing you must do is seek God's will. If you are out to prove a point, then you are not in God's will, and you are asking God for help under false pretense. Therefore what you are asking God for, you ask amiss, and he will not answer. You missed the mark, and you are entirely out of God's will. Today we have too many itchy ears, and God does not like it. We want to hear what we want to hear, and if we don't listen to what we want to hear, we then join another group or start another church.

Many churches have started all because a person disagrees on one thing or another that is being taught. Instead of doing as the bible says, to first seek God and his will, because in seeking God's will in this matter means that you will need to do some soul searching, along with scripture searching. After you have done this, and you still see where they are wrong in their teaching; then go to them, and tell them what they are teaching is wrong, and if they don't hear; take a witness with you and speak to them again. Many wars have started all because we disagree on one or two minor issues for instance:

1. The Pig War began in 1859 between US and England.
2. The Nika Riot In 532 AD.
3. The War of the Stray Dog October 1925.
4. The War of Jenkins' Ear In 1738.
5. The Toledo War in the 1830s.
6. The Pastry War In October 1838.

You can read a short story about these wars by going to:

6 Wars Fought for Ridiculous Reasons

Get the facts on six of history's most preposterous conflicts.

By: EVAN ANDREWS

<https://www.history.com/news/6...>

Now if the churches are teaching salvation other than being saved through Jesus Christ; then yes leave. Or if they are teaching another Jesus other than the true Son of God, then leave them and get far away from them. There are reasons God has given to us to leave, and one is He tells you to separate yourself from that person or group because of sin or false doctrine. Sin is something God will not put up with. And False teachings and doctrines we are to separate ourselves from.

If you do not seek Gods will, and ask for his wisdom before you make a move, and then turn around and ask God to bless you, you are then asking God a miss. You will not have your prayers answered, and Gods Blessings will be held from you.

Chapter 10

Lust of the Flesh

How many Christians do you know who after they become born again incorporate their worldly pleasure into their Christian lives? How many churches have you seen in your lifetime integrate worldly pleasure into their worship services, and into their own teachings?

I Corinthians 6:9-11, 15-20 KJV *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,”*

10 “Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

11 “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid..”

16 “What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.”

17 “But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”

18 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.’

19 *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*

20 *"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

II Corinthians 6:14-18 KJV *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"*

15 *"And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"*

16 *"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

17 *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."*

18 *"And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."*

Paul told the church that sexual immorality which included adultery, Prostitution, Homosexuality, and idolatry, is a sin and that we need to not partake of these sins or we will not see heaven. Today many of our churches allow such activity and let those who participate of such activity to preach and teach behind their pulpits.

Many Christians have forgotten their first love and are enjoying the pleasures of the world. This happens because people are not in a church where they can hear and be taught the word of God.

I know of a few ministers, pastors, teachers who right after they were saved went right into the ministry without any type of teaching what so ever, and they soon fall into the hands of the world and are back into sin and worldly pleasure from what God saved them from.

We hear all the time of the negative side about churches, and in many churches this is true. Most of your megachurches do not teach the full gospel, or they are teaching the water down version of the gospel. A lot of the mega churches were started by people who have itchy ears or the feel-good gospel. The church is to be a place where you get the full strength gospel that will help you grow in Christ and correct you when you need correcting to keep you from hell and to help protect you from satan and his evil empire

When you go to a church that is not stepping on your toes and teaching you what and how God intends that you should live then chance of you falling back into sin is very high. Most people fall back into sin and not realizing they are sinning. Why? Because they are not being taught by Christ or a church.

I hear quite often I don't need anyone to teach me, the Holy Spirit will guide me. Now I will not argue that point with you because Jesus taught the apostles himself. Paul who wrote most of the New Testament stated that he received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

"I did not consult any man, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus" (vv. 16-17). - Galatians 1:11-24

Paul spent three years in Arabia before he went into the ministry. During those three years, he studied God's Word and was taught by Jesus Christ.

When Paul, as well as the rest of the Apostles, went into the ministry they not only taught and preached the gospel but they lived the gospel. Paul lived every word he received from Christ so you know he was educated and instructed by Jesus Christ. Paul's life showed it. If we are to be taught and guided by the Holy Spirit, then we need to submit entirely to Christ. You more than likely will need to study God's word intensely for three years so that by studying the Word of God and spending time in your prayer closet you will grow in Christ and your life will show it. Then you will be ready to teach or preach.

If you are being taught by the Holy Spirit or by Christ himself your life will show it. How you are living will prove it. If you are allowing the world to entice you then you are not being taught by the Godhead. If you are partaking of the worldly pleasures, then you are not being guided by the Godhead.

Jesus ordained preachers and teachers to do what? To preach and teach the Bible to everyone. A person must first learn how to submit themselves to God one hundred percent, so when you are taught by the Holy Spirit your life will show it, and you will set the example of Christ before men.

Chapter 11

Lust of the world in church.

Paul's letter to the church in Corinth speaks about how we are to separate ourselves from the ungodly, and idols. You are not to have any idols in your life, and this is a commandment of God in

Exodus 20:3-6 KJV. 3 *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."*

4 *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven aimage, or any likeness of vany 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."*

Idols in churches are common today. So many churches have gods, and some of these idols are the church building itself; in fact, some of these big fancy churches have become a country club to attract members to help pay for this big elegant church. It doesn't stop there the church needs a multi-million dollar organ. The music doesn't sound any better, and God is not pleased with it especially when there are souls to be won for Christ, and the poor needs help, widows and children are suffering, and the elderly have been neglected. All these people are sacrifices to the god of money, fancy buildings, and multimillion-dollar organs and church furnishings.

I have seen these churches set up in the poorest of communities, and never once do you see that big fancy church reach out to the lost and hurting of that community. Pastors, it is high time to get back into that prayer closet and get back into the word of God to find out just what is God's will for your church. When you spend more money on that big fancy building, and all the furnishings then you do to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ it is wrong.

Some of the churches have idols. Some are statues of Christ, Mary, all the apostles and some are of ordinary people. And many people worship these idols. They bow and pray to these idols. If you are in a church like any of these I have mentioned then get out of that church. If you worship or have any other gods in your life or church, it is a sin.

Exodus 20:3, 4 KJV *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."*

4 "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven you nee image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

Idols in our lives are common today. And these idols will stop all prayers from being answered. Idols are those things that keep you from your prayer closet, and from reading Gods word. When something is important in your life and takes your time away from God, it is an idol.

That Idol can be your job, your finances, sports, money, family, and friends, it can be anything that is more important than God.

Some people are workaholics; they feel that they must work all the time they have no time for their friends, husband or wife, and children, let alone God. When this happened that job or jobs become an Idol.

Debt can be an idol. When a person is so far in debt that it takes more than one income to pay off that debt, then it is an idol and a master of your life. When you have to work all the time to pay off your lust or greed, it is a sin. That debt takes you away from God away from the church, away from your prayer life, away from your time in the bible, and away from raising your children and leading your family in the ways of the Lord. You don't have time for family bible study and prayer.

That debt has become an Idol a god, and that is sin and will stop your prayer from being answered. Start making God first and center of your life now and he will help you wipe out that debt.

Churches today have forgotten about the high commission of Christ. Christ commissioned us to take the message of salvation to every creature and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 28:19 KJV *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost:"*

Mark 16:15 KJV *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

God is looking for a holy people and a holy church. He is telling each member of the body of Christ, and his Church, to come out from amongst the world and be a separate people. Otherwise, God will not hear your prayers.

I'm reminded of a man who said to me: "I am going to be a sheep in wolves clothing, and go into the world to win souls for Christ." Got news for you, it does not work that way. The bible says we are to come out from the world and be a separate people, and when we do not come out, God will not hear our prayers.

Pastor if this is your way of thinking then you better be getting back to that prayer closet, and seek Gods face. Many churches have taken on the same attitude as this man did. God doesn't need the help of Satan to win souls. God does not require the inventions or the tools of Satan to bring people to him. God goes to the heart of man, and not the lust of man or the mind of man. You can not hold on to God with one hand and the world with the other. It is impossible and if you do it will be spiritual suicide.

God can not and will not look upon sin, and when you try to incorporate the world in your daily walk with Christ, and into your church services, it is the same as saying to God: "I will serve you if you allow me to have this pleasure." Sin is sin no matter how you slice it or how you color it, or what title you give it. God will not look upon you with favor nor will your prayers be answered.

Chapter 12

The churches and worldly music...

One thing many churches are using to draw big crowds and more significant bank accounts is music. We are seeing, and have seen for some time now; where churches are using the music of the world to draw the crowds.

So many Christians came from a world of rock, hard rock, punk rock, and whatever kind of rock are out there today, and they refuse to separate themselves from that kind of music. I say rock because rock seems to have the strongest hold on a person than any other type of music, but this at the same time is not limited to rock music.

God does not need the music of the world to draw people to him. Music in churches is to be used to worship God, to honor God, to bring praises unto the Lord. Gospel music is a way of telling the story about Jesus Christ and his saving Grace, or how His blood has redeemed us from sin.

Just because a song has God or Jesus in it, does not make it a gospel song. Just because a song may have "let us worship and or praise" does not make it pleasing to God. We have groups in the churches today who dress like the worldly group and sing like the secular groups. And put makeup on like the secular groups, and pattern their lifestyle after the secular groups, and it is because they are part of the worldly group.

Here is something to think about next time you play a song; ask yourselves these four questions.

1.) Is this song a Gospel song? Does it tell the true story of Jesus Christ and his saving grace?

2.) Is this song a true testimony of Gods saving Grace?

3.) Does this song give genuine praise and worship to God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ? Would this music be pleasing to God or is it to satisfy my worldly lust?

One more thing to think about and that is; if the world loves the music that we often call gospel, then chances are God doesn't. We are to be separate people. We are to come out from amongst the world.

II Corinthians 6 *"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people".*

17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

18 "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

God doesn't want the world's way of thinking nor does he want the world's music. We seem to pray about everything in our life, but not about what music we should listen too. This can, and will, hinder your prayers. You can not hold onto God with one hand and the world with the other; it will not work, and if you do, your prayers will continually go unanswered.

Ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people".

17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

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Chapter 13

Lust of the flesh in our personal lives...

Lust of the flesh is not only sex, or money, or cars, houses, it can be anything that keeps you from committing one hundred percent (100%) of yourself to God. It is when you try to incorporate the worldly pleasures into your personal walk with God. God does not want or need the help of the world or to use the tools of Satan.

Sex between a husband and wife is good and God ordained it, but when you want it outside of marriage it is wrong. Lusting after other women or other men is a sin. Going to porn sites or meeting secretly with the opposite sex for sexual pleasures is a sin, and this too will stop your prayers from being answered.

Money is something we all must have, and that is not wrong, but when you make money a god, and it is used to satisfy the lust of the flesh that is when it becomes wrong. When you don't give to God, but you can give for worldly pleasures it is wrong. When we refuse to pay tithes (giving God ten percent of our income) we not only Robbed God but we have sinned and this sin will stop your prayers from being answered.

Cars is something we all need in today's world to get around, but when that car is more important than your prayer life, and it takes 2 jobs to pay for it, and it has caused you to stop paying your tithes and offerings to God so you can pay for this car, and you stop doing your job of helping to take the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world; then that car has become a god, and that is a sin, and it will stop your prayers from being answered.

We buy big fancy homes filled with the very best furnishing so we can impress neighbor, friends or relatives and do so is fulfilling the lust of the flesh, and neglecting our walk with God, as well as our prayer life, and studying the word of God, it will stop our prayers from being answered.

Having sex within the marriage is not wrong, and having a big fancy car is not wrong, living in a mansion is not wrong, and being rich is not wrong, in fact, God wants you to have all these things. But when you make it a god and you neglect your prayer life and your walk with God, it becomes a sin, and your prayers will go unanswered. When you neglect to pay your tithes and offering to God so you can fulfill the lust of your eyes; your prayers will go unanswered. If you fail to help take the Gospel around the world it will stop your prayers from being answered. If you fail to help others who are in need or to listen to those who may just need a friend to talk to. Or help the elderly, the widows, or the children because you are too busy or just refuse to do so will stop your prayers from being answered.

Lust of the flesh will stop God from answering your prayers. Sin will stop God from answering your prayers. Repent and do what God expects of you and turn away from the idols of your life and be a separate people.

Chapter 14

Our Lack of Faith

Hebrews 11:1 KJV *“Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Hebrews 11:6 KJV *“But with out Faith it is impossible to please him: but he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

Hebrews 11:1 is a two (2) part verse. Part one (1) “Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for...” Faith is the substance. Let us take a look at this word substance; in the Greek the word substance is {“Hypostasis” meaning: confidence, trust, being sure, being a confident person} of things hoped for {this word “hoped” in the Greek is: “Dobe” which means: Strength and also the word “hoped” Dalag meaning: to scale, ascend, Leap up Leap, over to leap.} (Taken from Strongs Exhaustive Concordance)

So we are finding out that the first part of this verse is saying: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...” or faith is a confident person or a person who trusts, and puts their trust in God our heavenly Father, a person who is so sure that God has answered he is leaping, and rejoicing as he jumps over his doubt, and becomes strong in God, and overcomes the natural eye.

Part two (2) "...the evidence of things not seen." The spiritual man is leaping and is telling the flesh you can not see it yet, but it is there, so you need to begin to Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, natural man! For our Holy God, our Holy Father in heaven is real, and he has answered; Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Look beyond the flesh, and see, because when you do, it will come to pass. The spirit is telling the carnal mind's eye to look and see because it is there!

This Verse 1 of Hebrews chapter 11 is a compelling verse. Paul explains to the Hebrews in chapter 11 how we are to act, and how that when you act by faith it shows that our heavenly Father is real and that he indeed answers the prayers of his children who do not doubt.

Verse 6 he said: "But with out faith it is impossible to please him..."

Impossible to please who? Without faith, it is impossible to please God. If you do not believe that God will give what you ask for; then why even ask? Because unless you believe, and I mean genuinely believe; then your prayer will not be heard by God. "... for he that cometh to God must believe that he is..." That he is... We must believe that he is the holy God; He is of the Trinity which is: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. That he is a just God, and that his justice is true and holy. That he is the divine creator of all things, that he is a merciful God and has shown his mercy, and grace through his Son Jesus Christ, and who has given us power through the Holy Ghost to live a Christian life. Without this kind of faith, your prayers will go unanswered.

He is our Holy God, our Holy heavenly Father. *"...and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*

You come before God full of faith, and you believe that he is God, and you know who he is and what he is, and you reverence his holy Name. You seek him with great passion, and love for him as your heavenly Father, and when you seek his righteousness, and his will, and wisdom, he will reward you. Your prayers will be answered. He will shower you with blessings. When we hear the word blessings, or we hear the phrase showered with blessings we automatically think of material things such as money, cars, houses, food, but we never seem to realize blessings are also spiritual. We all have a spiritual need that we need God's grace to fulfill that need.

If you do not have faith in God, God will not answer your prayers. Know who your God is, and seek him. He is our heavenly Father. Are you asking: How do I get to know who God is? You get to know God by studying the bible and by spending time in your prayer closet, in fact by studying your bible and having a good prayer life it will not only help you to know him but once you know him your faith will become strong in him. Jesus Knew his Heavenly Father, and that is how he was able to perform miracles while he was on this earth.

When you were a child, you went to your parents to ask them for something to eat because you are hungry. You know this person whom you are asking. If it were your mother, you would go to her, and say: mom I am hungry. Can I have something to eat? You know who she is, and who she is to you, because of your love for her, and her love for you. You know you came from her, and because of that respect and love you have given to her; she will feed you. You obeyed all of her rules, and you made sure your chores were all completed, or you were at the least working to finish them, and because of that, she would give you more then you asked.

She sees what you have been doing, and that you seek to please her; so as your reward she may give you a big piece of cake or pie that you love along with that meal. You know when you went to your mother, and ask her it was going to happen. You knew she was going to go and fix you something to eat. You knew by faith you could smell the food cooking, and it was in the pot, it is being prepared to be served onto your plate, but yet it was not on your plate for you to eat. Even though you could not see the food on your plate, you knew mom answered your request for food, and it was coming out of that pot, and onto your plate.

Faith is the same way. Your Heavenly Father is preparing your request, and what you requested is there before you; even though your physical eyes can not see it, yet it is there because the soul of your inner man sees it. Your nose could smell the food your mom was preparing and was telling your brain: "Hey just because the eyes can not see it on the plate does not mean it's not coming. I can smell it, and it is exciting. I am excited because my mother loves me, and she answered my request. It will be on that plate and in my mouth at the right moment."

When you spend time in your prayer closet, and when you spend time in his word you will get to know and trust in your heavenly Father. You will know who he is. You will know he is a never-changing God, and what he has done for the men of old, and what he has done at the beginning of the church age he still does today "if" and "when" we allow God to have his perfect will in our lives. Asking God for his perfect will, and allowing God to have his perfect will in your life are two different things. I can ask God all day long, as Jesus stated in "The Lords Prayer" "Let your will be done..."

But if I don't allow him to have his perfect will in my life then the words I just spoke to God was all in vain. If I don't have faith in God to allow him to have his perfect will in my life, then my prayer is all in vain.

You ask your husband or wife to stop at the store on their way home because you are in need of something, and that person says ok honey I will.

All of your faith and trust is in that person, and you are at peace, and excited, because what you ask for is before you, even though you can not see it, but because you asked, and that person said yes. The same faith you have in that person is the same faith we should have in our heavenly Father.

Hebrews 13:8 KJV *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever.”*

Jesus is the same Jesus today as he was at the beginning of time. He is part of the Godhead so if Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever; then so is your heavenly Father and the Holy Ghost. His same love for you then is the same love for you now, and will never grow cold.

If Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever then so is our heavenly Father the same yesterday today and forever. If our heavenly Father is the same yesterday, today, and forever then so is the Holy Ghost. The God Head never changes. The same laws and commandments that God gave Moses to mankind are still in effect today. The same commandments Jesus gave to mankind and the church is still in effect today.

What was sin at the beginning of time is still sin today. God has never said well times have changed and the people have changed so we must make different rules for what is sin and what is not sin to accommodate their lustful lifestyle. No God’s love for mankind and for you personally has never changed and will be the same forever and ever.

Your husband or wife, mother or father son or daughter’s, love may wax cold for you, but Gods love, and mercy never grows cold.

Not having faith in God, and not knowing who he is, and believing God will do as we ask will stop all prayers from being answered. God knows you, and see inside your heart; it is time we get to know him and to know the mind of God to build our faith. Get into that prayer closet, and his word; not only will it help you to know your heavenly Father, but your faith will also grow in him as you start to know him, and understand him.

Lack of Faith will stop your prayers from being answered.

Chapter 15

Understand Faith

Mark 11: 21 – 24 KJV *“And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.”*

22 “And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.”

23 “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

24 “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

If you go back to verses 13 and 14 of Mark chapter 11, you will find where Jesus cursed the fig tree that Peter was talking about in verse 21. Jesus cursed the fig tree because it had no fruit when he came to eat. All Jesus did was to speak to the fig tree, and believe that which he commanded was going to happen. Jesus did not worry about it or said I hope it comes to pass. No he just went on about his Fathers business, and when they passed that tree again Peter noticed it was dead, and he remembers how Jesus only a short time ago cursed the tree. Now Peter has been with Jesus when he fed the 5 thousand, and he has seen all the miracles Jesus did up to this point in time, and yet he was amazed that this fig tree was dead.

Jesus said Have Faith in God. Have Faith in God. Have faith in God! I imaged Jesus pointed to the Mount of Olives, and told his disciples That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith will come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

Jesus was telling us that we can do the same thing as he did if we have faith in God. When we ask of God, we are to believe that God will give it to us or that God will move that mountain. Rejoice because it is done if you believed. Many times we ask God for something we need, and we will get up, and worry some more about that problem and then we say: “God what is wrong? Why are you not hearing my prayer?” Yes he heard it, but you my friend did not believe he was going to take care of it, so you brought it back with you to worry more about it. Instead of leaving it there with God and let him handle the situation you got up and carried it with you because you did not believe God could take care of it.

Faith is knowing. Faith is knowing. Faith is knowing!!!

Faith is when you ask God for something knowing he will give it to you. Faith is when you command something in the name of Jesus Christ knowing it will happen. Ask God to meet your needs, and then move on, and be about your heavenly Fathers business, and leave your needs at the altar. Allow God, to be God and allow God to be your heavenly Father. If you just believe in your heart, faith not wavering, your answer will come, and what you ask for will happen.

Jesus spoke to the problem just as he spoke to the fig tree. We need to learn to talk to the issues in our lives and our ministries. We have the power to command that problem to leave in the name of Jesus Christ in the authority of Jesus Christ. Jesus said if we say to this mountain be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea. We are to speak to our mountains in the name or in the authority of Jesus Christ, and we are to command it to be removed. This is your rite as a Christian, and if you don't do this believing that it will be done, then it could hinder your prayers.

Let's look at it this way. Jesus said in **Matthew 17:20** *And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

Jesus told his disciples if I will say that again. "IF" you have faith as a grain of mustard seed you will be able to speak to this mountain remove yourself to yonder place it will get up and move. And if you can do this nothing would impossible to you. Look at it this way if faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains which has millions of tons of rock, dirt, and trees then how much faith would it take to be healed of cancer or to move that mountain in your life? The answer is the size of a mustard seed.

Even though Jesus meant that you could move a real mountain with just a small amount of faith he was telling us that nothing would be impossible for us. Why because of your faith in God. God is not expecting you to have a mountain of faith in him; no, he is expecting you to have even a small amount of faith in him to move mountains that are in your life both spiritual and physical.

The size of faith does not matter it is who your faith is in. Because it is not faith that moves the mountain, but God is the mover, God is the power. God is your protector. God is your Redeemer, and God is your healer, God is the one who will meet your need.

Do you have faith the size of a mustard seed?
Who is your faith in?

Chapter 16

Faith on, Faith off.

Some of us have a light switch effect faith, and sometimes it flashes on and off faster than a neon sign. The Bible calls this kind of faith a wavering faith, and it will stop your prayers from being answered.

James 1:6-8 KJV *“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.”

God may not answer our prayer instantly, and his timing is not our timing. His ways are not our ways. When you ask in faith, your faith must be as strong or stronger tomorrow, or next week, or next year, as it was the day you ask God for something.

It seems that one moment we will say that God will answer, and then the next hour, or the next day we will say I don't know if he will respond. This kind of light switch faith will stop your prayers as James stated in verse 7. *“For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”*

Either we believe that God will answer our prayers or we don't think God will answer our prayers. People who base their faith on feelings will fall, because faith is not a feeling. Faith is knowing. Remember God is not our personal Genie, He is God, He is our heavenly Father, he is our creator, and for us to believe that God is our genie is foolishness on our part. He is not someone you keep in a bottle and on a shelf or the coffee table, and we bring him out when you need something. He is to live in our heart, and we are the ones to be subjected to him and not him to us.

A genie you command to do things for you. You do not command God to do anything, because he is God. You do not command Jesus to do anything he is the Son of God he is our King and our Redeemer. You do not Command the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) to do anything, because he is here to comfort us to train us. To convict us, He is the third part of the God Head. He is also our creator just as the Father and Son is our creator.

You command Satan and his demons to leave, and you command your mountains too, and you command your sickness to leave you in the name of Jesus Christ you do not command God, His Son Jesus Christ, or the Holy Ghost to do anything. You ask of your heavenly Father not demand or command your heavenly Father to do anything.

We will pray to ask God to meet the need of the hour, or the day, or the week, or month, and then it is like we go directly into labor to deliver this child we call answer, I wish he would hurry up and answer this is killing me. We go through so much pain waiting for God to answer our prayer, it is like like you are giving birth to a child. Then we start having this light switch faith. One minute we say Glory to God he is going to answer or Glory to God he has responded to my prayer because we want to show him that our faith is in him one hundred percent. Then bang no sooner we say that we flip the faith switch off and say I guess God will not answer it is not Gods will for me to have it. Or God does not seem to love me like he does other people; I am not one of his favorites I guess.

Here is my favorite: God doesn't seem to care about my family if he did he would not let them go through this. I do all I can for God, and he is going to make my family suffer. If it was just me God; that would be ok I could handle it then, but this is my family, and they do not deserve this. And then in a little bit, we say: God will answer because of my family.

This kind of faith is wavering faith, we tend to hide behind our family or our spouse, for our lack of faith. When we pray, we need to learn to leave it at Gods feet and let him take care of it. We are to walk away and say God will answer, period, no taking it back and worrying over it. Just get up knowing God has answered my prayer and is taking care of it.

Wavering faith will stop all prayers from being answered. You need to repent of it and move on.

Chapter 17

Taking charge and using spiritual authority.

As we talked about earlier we are to take charge and use the authority that Jesus has given us to fight Satan and his powerful demons. Paul said in **Ephesians 6:12 KJV** *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

There are times we must resist Satan and the rulers of darkness, and we do so through the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Ghost. We need not be afraid to use the power Jesus authorized us to use. Don't be afraid to talk to that mountain in your life, and command it to leave in the name of Jesus Christ. Paul used the authority of Jesus when he cast an evil spirit out of a woman in **Acts 16:18** *“And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.”*

We look at our selves as human, and we look at the demons of hell as a powerful force to reckon with, and this we should. We should look at our selves as humans and weak, because we are weak and no match for the spirit world, our flesh is so limited that if God was to allow; Satan could crush us, and instantly return us to dust.

This is why humans are no match for the spirit world and this is also why Jesus said we should put our trust in God and not in ourselves. Therefore we need to look at Satan, and his demons as being powerful, but now get this: We have the power not in our human strength nor in the physical realm, but through Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Ghost to overpower Satan and his demons.

Why? Because Jesus already defeated Satan when He died on the Cross and on the third day God raised him from the dead. Gods Power is greater and he will share his power with every born again person.

Not taking charge or not using the authority Jesus has given to you will hinder your prayers. Use the power of the Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus Christ against Satan and his demonic powers and against the mountain in your life.

God is not weak, God is still God even over Satan. Understand this, Satan can only do what God allows him to do, and Satan can only do what we allow him to do.

Satan can not make you do anything. He can tempt you, he can paint you a beautiful picture to get your mind off of the things of God. He can plant desires within you, but he can not force you to partake in anything. All because you have that right of choice.

God will not force you to do anything. He will not force you to obey his commandment. He will not force you to use the power he has given to all the saints of God through Jesus Christ to overcome Satan and the desires of the flesh. God will not force you to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and being the Son of God.

God will not force you to take charge and use the spiritual authority he has given to you through His Son Jesus Christ.

We need to make our own choices and when we chose not to stand against Satan and the spiritual wickedness, then we will stand before Christ, and give an account, and we will explain why we rejected his power to overcome Satan. Not only will we have to give an answer to God, but it can stop our prayers from being answered.

Here is a thought, did you notice that there is nowhere in the bible that Jesus said God did not answer my prayers? Why? The closest he came to God not answering his prayer was in the garden when Jesus said, let this cup pass from me; speaking of his brutal death that he was facing for all of us, but then he remembered why he was here on this earth, and he quickly changed his mind and said never the less, not my will but your will be done. I believe God reminded Jesus why he was here on earth.

Remember Jesus was human he had given up his heavenly powers, he did so not only to save you and me and to reunite us with our heavenly Father but so you can actually relate to him. When you go through stressful trials Jesus says: Yes I can relate to what you are going through, because my trial was so stressful I was sweating blood. So this is why I have given you, my son, and you, my daughter the heavenly power, my power to overcome the stress of life and to be able to live a godly life here on earth.

Chapter 18

Laziness in our Christian Life

One of the problems we have when it comes to getting our prayers answered is, we do nothing. We go to God in prayer as a spoiled child expecting God to do it all, and we sit on our hands waiting for it to pop in our laps. Most of the time we must work for what we are wanting, not only do we work for our physical needs, but we must also work for our spiritual needs as well. Let me explain.

II Thessalonians 3:10 KJV *“For even when we were with you, this we command you, if any would not work, neither should he eat.”*

When we read this verse we automatically think of our physical world, and yes this does hold true, but here he is also speaking, and mainly speaking of our spiritual being. Many of us have a secret sin that we have not repented of, or we may have repented of it only to find our selves right back to committing that sin again.

Let us say you have an addiction to pornography. You can ask God to forgive you, and to give you victory over this addiction, but if you are not willing to take steps to ensure you will not fall into this trap again; but sit and expect God to give you a miracle; then you are out of the will of God, and your prayers will not be answered.

No matter what your sins are, if you do not work to help God to give you victory; then you will not eat the bread of victory. We sit and wait for Gods deliverance when all we have to do is work toward that deliverance.

I am not saying God can't deliver you of your addiction, because he can, but sometimes we must get up, and do our part for that deliverance. When you repented of your sins, and God cleansed you, you became a new creature in Christ Jesus. God forgave you of all of your sins; it is up to you to turn back to that sinful life you were once in. You must not only ask God for deliverance but also seek deliverance by removing things in your life that will cause you to fall back into that sin. And you must remove yourself from that bad situation, or you will not eat of the bread of victory over this addiction.

Seek help from your pastor or other brother and sisters in Christ to help you to become victorious.

When God saved you from your sins through his Son Jesus Christ, he gave you a job to do. As you grow in the Lord, you will find what that job is that God has called you to do. When you were saved, if you were like most people the first thing you did was grab a bible, and start reading, and attend a church or group meeting such as bible studies. Why because you wanted to grow in the Lord. Just as a baby reaches for their mother's breast so do, Baby Christians reach out for the bible. They want to know their heavenly Father.

The problem is we do this for a while, and then when we become teenagers in Christ, and we think we know it all, as most teenagers do, and we put God and the bible on the shelf until we get in trouble. We are no longer working to stay in that relationship with God because we think we know what is best for ourselves.

The problem is when we do this we get older and lazier. We depend on others to do what God has called us to do, and yet we expect to eat of the bread of blessing from God. We expect that bread of victory to be ours even though we did not work for it. If God called you to be a pastor, then get off your seat and start working towards being a pastor.

If he called you into the mission field get up and get going. Stop expecting others to do your job. Some of us are called to be prayer warriors if this is your calling then you better be spending time in prayer and praying for your pastors, and other ministers of the gospel. Stop expecting others to do it because it may be that you are the only one praying for them.

Some of you may be teachers if this is what God has called you to do; then be busy or get busy, and stop expecting others to do your job, you don't know who may die and go to hell, all because you refused to do what God has called you to do.

Some of you are called to help a church or a ministry to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in some position whether you are a Lawyer, CPA, a Doctor, a Nurse, a Business Manager, a Deacon, Youth Leader, Evangelist, a Church Planter, a Computer Programmer, a Webmaster, the list goes on and on. If you were called to help in this type of ministry, then you better be doing it, or the bread of spiritual blessing will not be upon you.

I know many of you were called to be givers, and to give to a church or ministry. You say wait I pay my tithes. That is wonderful, and I am glad that you are obeying Gods commandment, and giving him his ten percent of your wages, but; what about the offering? God has blessed you so you can provide more in offering as well as tithes. If God has been dealing with you about giving, and you refuse to give then your bread of blessing will be withheld from you.

When you are working in what God has called you to do then, God will take care of you, and he will meet your needs. We will not neglect our physical needs, and we will work for that, but when it comes to doing the job God has called us to do we either do not do it, or we half-heartedly do it, but we expect others to bless us from the blessings God has given to them. God will not bless you nor will he answer your prayers until you get up, and do what he called you to do. God does not expect you to do a job for someone else, and then you give that person your spiritual blessing that God has given you.

If you do not know what God wants you to do then get up and find out. Get into Gods word and your prayer closet, God will reveal to you what he wants you to do.

We ask God for something we better be looking for way's that God may be showing us to receive it, and put forth the effort to receive Gods blessings, and not sit expecting it to just fall in our laps. It is every Christian duty to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. Every Christian must support their pastors or ministers of the gospel. Support those who are out there spreading the Gospel. We must help the widows and orphans. We have to reach out to the poor and the hurting for Jesus Christ.

We must do what God has called us to do. Your job and my job are to spread the good news of Jesus Christ around the world and to win souls for Christ.

If we allow laziness to interfere with our lives; then it will hinder our prayers. We may need to put some action into our Christian life to receive what we have asked God.

Some of you may be saying I am everything but lazy. I work two jobs to support my family, so I am far from being lazy. Are you far from being Lazy? What about the task God has called you to do? If you are not doing what God has called you to do, then you are a lazy person.

How can you say that when I just told you I am working two jobs to support my family. Did you ever stop to think that by you neglecting to do that what God has called you to do that, that might be the very reason you have to work two Jobs?

God takes care of those who step out in faith and do that job he has called you to do. I know some ministers who have said that God has called them to preach or to pastor a church but has yet to take the first step to do what God has called them to do. Satan, once he sees your weakness, he will use that weakness to keep you from doing your job for God. I have heard many excuses, and mostly involves their wives, husbands, or kids and even grandkids. I have news for you, those are not good excuses, and it is nothing more than pure laziness on your part.

God will not call you into any ministry without making away for you to fulfill what he has called you to do. I also want to clear one more thing up. If you are a true believer, you are part of the body of Christ, and being a part of the body of Christ, you have a job to do. Your first and foremost obligation is to the body of Christ. But we seem always to have that backward; we seem to believe we are to meet our own needs, desires, and lust first. That my friend is the wrong way of thinking, the bible says in Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." What are we supposed to seek first? Again I ask you What are we suppose to seek first? We are to seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Not your own needs, or wants, or desires, and lusts.

Chapter 19

Not Expecting God to Answer

How many times have you asked God for something, and when he answers your prayer, you are amazed or surprised God even answered? I have prayed with people, and I have seen God answer their prayers, and when he did, there was a joy, but also a bewildered look on their faces. I would say to them; you look surprised. Why? They would say: I was not expecting it. I thought that God would probably not answer. I would ask: Why? Did we not pray, and ask God for it?

We seem to have the mentality that when we are in need of something that we are supposed to ask God for it, but when we do, we look at it as maybe he will answer, or perhaps he won't answer, because most of the time he won't. Am I right? Is this how you had felt when you prayed? I know I have. I have prayed and asked God to meet my needs or to help me with a bill, or there may be a problem in my life.

There may be a problem in my family, and then get up and say: "Well, I just waste of my breath, because I know God won't answer my prayer, he hasn't in a very long time; why should he start now?" Moreover, with that type of mentality, I was right one hundred percent of the time. God never did answer my prayers. Why? Why should he? You already defeated yourself by not expecting God to answer.

I remember one of my daughters (when they were children) came to me and asked me for something, but before I could answer, she would say: I don't know why I even asked you, because you will say "no." So I responded with: you are right the answer is no. She would say: "See I knew it. I knew you would say no." I would tell her that she was right. I would ask her: Why should I say yes? Look at your attitude, and how you asked me. If you knew my answer was no, then why did you even come and ask me?" You are right the answer is no because of your attitude towards me.

Take your lousy attitude and throw it into the trash. Next time you go to God and ask for something your attitude better be gone, and you better be asking expecting the yes answer. We are to go before God expecting, and we are to know he has answered or will answer. Prayer, is a tool, for us to use to receive from God and prayer is also a weapon to use against Satan and the demons. Prayer with faith is our shield, and through Jesus Christ, there is great power in our prayer. Prayer is that hotline to God Almighty our heavenly Father.

We seem to expect too little from God, and it is because of our lack of faith. You may say: Ah, but I do have faith, and I believe God will answer, but God is not responding when I need him to answer. Got news for you, if you lack patience, then you lack faith.

When you walk into a room, and you flip the light switch on instantly you have light; why? Because the electrician who wired your house, plugged it into the primary power source, so as long as you keep that electric bill paid you will have light, and much more to meet the needs of your home. It is the same principle with God as long as you are keeping Gods commandments that power of heaven will always be there for you. God will answer your prayers.

If a storm comes, and knocks your electric out, and you call your electric company and say: "hey we have no electric," they will tell you not to worry, for we are working on it, and will have it back on as soon as possible. You don't hang up the phone and say: I doubt it, I don't think they will get my electric back on after all who am I, I am no one special. No, you wouldn't, because you know it will be back on. You may have to dig out some candles, lanterns, flashlights, and generators to light your pathway around the house until they do get the electric back on, but you know it will be back on.

If you can do this for the electric company then why not for God? Jesus told you in **Mark 11:22- 24 KJV** *"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."*

23 "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

What more does Jesus need to say? He said he would answer if you believe; it may not be instantly, and it may be a while, but if you believe that you will receive, then you will have it. Give God the same faith as you give your electric company. Know that he will answer, and know he will meet not only your needs but also the desire of your hearts.

Our lack of patients will stop our prayers. We need to become as a child this is why we need to have a childlike faith in everything. **Luke 18:17** says: *“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”* Understand that if we do not receive the kingdom of God as a child, we will not enter heaven. We need this childlike faith to go to heaven; therefore, we need this childlike faith to have our prayers answered.

Chapter 20

Law 9: Wavering Faith

We have talked about this earlier in this book, but I can not stress this enough. Wavering faith is just as bad as not having any faith. It will stop your prayers.

James 1:6-8 KJV *“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.”

My grandmother would tell us that a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. Little did I know she was quoting James 1:8. We say: we believe, but our actions show differently, and we do the opposite every time. When I was growing up we were taught by my parents and grandparents, that we are to pray for everything we wanted and needed, and we were to do it believing God would answer. God always responded to my prayers when I was a child because I had no doubt and my faith in him was pure.

When I became older was when I allowed Satan to put doubt in my mind, and I became unstable, and my faith became like a rolling sea. I would ask God for something, and not even 5 minutes later I would say: God why are you not answering? I had a little Dodge Colt, and that car was a good car, and I put many miles on it. One day I was going to go to work and went out to the car, and it would not start.

Here I was with no money to speak of and had a car that wouldn't start. Well, I remember a minister and his wife that I knew who was on his way to hold a revival at a church. They were about half way to this revival meeting when his car broke down, and he too had no money for repair bills. He and his wife got out of the car, and they laid hands on the vehicle and asked God to fix that car, because they needed to be at this revival, and they had no money for repairs.

After they prayed they got back in their vehicle; started it, and went on to that revival shouting and praising God all the way. So I said well if it worked for him it will work for me. So I get out of my car, and laid hands on it; I prayed and asked God to fix it. I got back into the car and turned that key, and guess what? The car did not start.

I got out of the car slammed the door like that would fix it, and said: God why didn't you fix my car? Then after a few minutes, I said: God I am going to do this again I am sorry for getting mad, and having myself a fit throwing. I believe you can, and will fix my car so I can go to work. I know you will because I have a family to feed, In Jesus Name. Amen. I got back in the car turned the key, and not to my surprise the car once again did not start. I said: I knew it, God! You don't care enough about me to fix my car. I got out of the car slammed the door, and stormed into the house. I sat there having a big pity party for myself, and saying God has his favorites, and I'm not one of them. I was acting like a spoiled child.

Do you act that way towards God? How many times have you prayed and when God did not answer when and how you thought he should answer; turned and said well I guess God does not love me enough? Then we bring our family in the picture like that's going to get God to say Oh yeah sorry I forgot about them. If it were just for myself, I wouldn't care, but you would think he would answer for my family sake. This is my favorite, well I guess God is too busy for me, and well I guess it just was not God's will. Now the next excuse I would buy quicker than any of them.

Later that afternoon I called a friend of mine who worked on cars and asked him to stop by on his way home from work to take a look at my car. He did and said all you need is a gasket for your carburetor, he said you have a water choke, and the water is getting in with the gas, and that is why the car won't start. So we went to get a gasket only we couldn't find one anywhere. It was one of those rare items that had to be ordered. I just knew God was punishing me, all because I had myself a major fit earlier. They told me it would be a week before I would get it after I ordered it.

I said God why are you doing this to me now? I will lose my job; which was 40 miles from my home. God, please help me. Well, that evening after I calmed down. God started talking to me, and he brought back to remembrance my grandmothers saying: James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

He then took me to **James 1:6-8 KJV** *"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."*

And in James 2:20 KJV "...O vain Man, that faith with out works is dead?"

Well God was telling me that I need to exercise my faith, and put it into action. So I said Lord, I am sorry for doubting you, and I am asking you once again to help me fix my car, because you know I must have that car to get back and forth to work. When I finished my prayer, I left it there before the Lord. I got up believing God was going to answer my prayer, and that's when he did, and I knew in my heart that he did. The next day I was off work because it was the weekend, but I believe that God would provide a way for my car to be fixed.

That night I went to bed, and God gave me a dream while I was asleep, and showed me in detail how to fix this car. I got up went out and fixed the car just as the Lord showed me. He said use refrigeration epoxy. We used this epoxy to fix evaporators in refrigerators that had leaks. So I did as the Lord said to do, just as he showed me in my dream. I let it sit for a little bit and then went out to the car and it started. When the gasket finally came in I could not get the carburetor off to put the gasket on. I said Lord you fixed it right and he did. I left it alone and ran it for another year before I traded it off.

It shows you that just because God does not answer right at the moment, we think he should do not mean that he is not working on the problem which in most cases it is us whom he has to work on. Sometimes we must shut our mouths and open our hearts in quietness and allow God to speak to us and give us the answers.

Wavering Faith will stop all prayers from being answered. Do Not let your faith waver and give Satan the victory.

Chapter 21

Pride will stop your prayers from being answered.

To be proud or to have a proud spirit will stop your prayers from being answered. There are about three kinds of pride most of us have or had, but one of these three will stop your prayers from being answered. One of these points of pride God hates.

Pride number one. When you are proud of someone such as; your son or daughter, husband or wife, mother or father, or the friend and the neighbor next door. This kind of pride is ok as long as you do not take it to extremes, and you begin to worship that person or consider that person above God and everyone else.

When my daughters were born, I was so proud of the fact that God allowed me to be a father to these two beautiful babies. As they grew older, I was proud of their accomplishments and still am. When my daughter received a degree in college, I was proud of her for what she had accomplished in her life. However, the greatest pride in my daughters was when they both gave their hearts to God, and vowed to serve him. That was a prayer answered, and I give God all the praise and glory for that. This kind of pride is ok as long as you realize that none of that would have taken place unless God allowed it to happen. To Him, I give all the praises and glory.

Pride number two. Is when you take pride in what you do; by that I mean this: to take pride in your work, and to do it the best you can do, and to give one hundred percent (100%) of yourself to that job you agreed to do; whether it was something you are getting paid to do or something you volunteered to do. This kind of pride is good, and God expects this of each, and every one of us. God expects me to give my all to the work he has laid out before me. Even if I do not get paid for it here on this earth, I am to do it without complaining or grumbling, I am to do the very best I can do. If I don't give it my all God is not pleased, and he may not answer my prayers.

Please pay attention here even though God expects us to have pride in what we do in this life; the pride I am about to talk about in number three can sneak into pride one and two very quickly. You can take good pride and allow bad pride to creep in, and it can become sin. Pride can either build your character or destroy you. When you genuinely keep God in the center of everything that bad pride will always be gone.

You should be proud of your marriage, and proud of your wife or husband, and that is a good thing. So often couples lose that pride in each other, and when you do; I suggest you get on your knees, and get back into your prayer closets, and find out what is wrong with you. Notice I did not say with him or with her, but with you. Why? Because most of the time the problem lies within us, and not that other person. Moreover, when you start to talk about that other person to other people or complain about that person to God, it becomes a sin and God is displeased.

Well, I thought we are to pray for one another, and we are to tell God what is bothering us, and I thought, I am supposed to take my spouse to God in prayer? Yes, you are right. We often tell God what we see as the problem, and we tell God how he is to handle the problem, and we allow anger to build up inside of us; therefore we want God to bring them to death's door, or beat them over the head until he or she listens to you, and bring them back to you a perfect husband or wife.

Now I am here to tell you God can do that, he could bring you back a perfect husband or a perfect wife, but the problem is if he did you would soon hate that person, because you will see all of your imperfections, and it will make you even angrier. Most of the time the problem is with you, more than with your spouse, but we have this bad pride in us, and it blinds us, and we believe I am right as always, and he/she is wrong as always.

To talk to your friends, or a worldly person or a nonbeliever about your spouse is wrong. A nonbelieving Christian and even some of your Christians will mislead you and will lead you down the path of destruction. They will not show you God's way of handling things, why because they don't spend time in God's word to show you his way to handle the problem, and most think God's way is so outdated.

Well, I need someone to talk also. No, not really. God made it all possible for you to come to him he will listen to you, and he will show you the answer, and it will be according to God's word, and not yours or your friends. If you feel you must have some help in guiding you to deal with that situation; then contact a godly man or woman who is genuinely grounded in God's word and has a great prayer life.

It amazes me how we will spend thousands of dollars to pay someone to listen to us, and maybe suggest something for us to try, and if that doesn't work. They will suggest something else for you to try, and/or prescribe you a drug to handle life's cares; When all it takes is for you to get into God's word, and into your prayer closet, shut the door, and spend time with God, and allow him to show you the problem that lies within you. We need to pray until God has answered, that is called praying through. When you have a marriage problem search your own life first, ask God to search your own heart, and show what is wrong, because more than likely you are at fault.

I am not saying it is always your fault, but if you are not at fault, God will take this time to show you, and will help you clear up a whole lot of imperfections inside you that you never knew was there. Not going to God is pride, and God hates pride. Not asking God to search your heart, and soul, and to reveal your imperfections is called pride and God hates that.

So what is the pride God hates?

Pride number three (3). This kind of pride is a dangerous and self-destructing pride. It is a pride of self-control and self-dependency. It is when you are something that you are not; or when you refuse to realize that you are not God, and that you are weak; that you have no control of your life. I will repeat this; You have no control over your life. How can you say that when I can choose to do this or that? Does that not give me control? Yes, you are in control of choice only, and that is all you have control of. Don't mix up choices with controlling your own life. You can choose to serve God, or you can choose not to serve God. If you believe you have control of your life, then you need to read the book of Job. There you will find you have no control whatsoever.

God is in control of everything, and he allows us to believe we have total control of our lives. God will step aside, because of our choice, and allow Satan to have control of our life or he may stand aside to test our faith in him, either way, God is in total control as we see here in:

Job 1:8-12 KJV *“And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?”*

9 “Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?”

10 “Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.”

11 “But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.”

12 “And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.”

We serve one of 2 masters:

Luke 16:13 KJV *“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

The problem is we let our foolish pride get caught up in the things of this world. Luke 16:13 says that we can not serve God and mammon. Mammon in the Greek means: Wealth (Assets) Let's take a closer look at this verse. We know that Jesus was talking about the things of this world which he boiled it all down to wealth and assets.

Jesus had no wealth here on this earth nor did he have any earthly assets. He owned no property, had no bank account, No home with a closet full of clothes. He didn't own a mule, a horse or oxen to get around with. He depended solely upon his heavenly Father for everything including his food and clothes. Jesus was busy going around teaching, healing and doing the will of the Father.

What are you saying? That it is wrong to be rich and to have wealth, and assets in this life? No. That is not what this verse is talking about, but at the same time when your desire is the wealth of any type, and your desire is not to please, and serve your heavenly father; then it becomes wrong. Your willingness to serve God must come above everything else in life.

You can not serve two (2) masters either God is the most important part of your life or your wealth, or the desire for wealth is. When you are so busy building or trying to build up wealth or assets; most of the time we take the work of God and set on the shelf right next to our bible, and our prayer life Because we feel we can not do both.

Jesus does not want you to live on this earth with nothing; this is not what he is saying here. Jesus did show you that God will provide for you. He will provide a way for you when you are in total commitment to him. God may bring you down to nothing to teach you how to depend upon him for everything, but it doesn't have to be that way if we will set aside this foolish pride we have and rely solely upon God.

In other words, you are not in control; you are not that great provider you thought you were; only God is. Moreover, if you think you are the provider, then you are not serving God, and that pride you have is stopping your prayers from being answered. When you realize that God provides for your family, then you can move forward, and God will open doors, and use you to provide for your family.

I hope, I am getting you to see the picture here about our stubborn pride. When you humble yourself, and you leave your cares before the feet of God, he will bless you. He will be the one to give you riches, and when he does you will use it for his glory, and you will rejoice, and worship only God who is our great provider.

Ephesians 6:10-13 KJV *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”*

11 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

13 “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

We will not have our prayers answered because of our foolish pride. Here are some ways our pride stops our prayers.

1.) We don't believe God will answer our prayers. How many times have you asked God for something and then turn around and say: "Well it must not be Gods will for me to have it" You might be right, but then here is my question: Why did you not seek Gods will first before asking? We often use the excuse ("If it is Gods will for me to have it") to cover our pride and to cover our lack of trust in God.

Do not get me wrong here, please. I am not saying that we should not be saying if it is Gods will, I will do this or that, or I will go here or there, because this is precisely what we should be saying as according to **James 4:6** *"For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."*

James 4:6, 10 KJV *...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."*

10Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

I Peter 5:5-7 KJV *"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."

How many times have you taken your problems to God in prayer and say: "Father I need your help, I need food for my Family, and I need to pay this electric bill today, and my rent is due tomorrow, and Lord, Friday I have a car payment that is due. Please help me, and open the doors for this to be done; for all my faith is in you God, and I know you will do it. Thank you, Father, for answering my prayer; Lord you said I have not because I ask not, so this is why I am asking, and I believe it will be done. In Jesus name. Amen"

Then get up and say: Praise God I know he has answered prayer, Thank you, Jesus, I know it is done. Then a few minutes went by, and you decide that this request was too big for God to handle, so I better start worrying about how I am going to do all of this. Where am I going to get the money? "Oh man, this is not a good time for the economy to be bad."

Your pride, your foolish pride, took Gods job away from him. You gave him your cares and laid it before his feet, and then picked it back up as if to say never mind God, I better handle this because it is too much for you to handle, so I will take care of this, and then turn right around and say: God where are you? Why are you not answering?

Pride kills your prayers. Pride destroys the work of God. Pride destroys your marriage, pride destroys your home, pride destroys your ministry, and pride will destroy you. Pride God hates. God resisteth the proud.

I Peter 5:5-7 KJV *"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."

2.) Bad Pride will also tell us not to expect anything more than what we ask God for.

We need to start expecting God to give us more than what we ask for when we pray. Remember you can pray in the authority of Jesus Christ. We are to come boldly before our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ who paid for everything when he shed his blood upon the cross; Therefore we should expect great things to take place when we pray. You can not do it on your own, but through prayer, and by the power of the Holy Spirit in the authority of Jesus Christ, it will be done. This is performed by faith. By faith, you can say to this mountain be thou removed.

Satan is crafty, and he will make you think God will not answer. He will put fear in your heart, and say what if God does not answer. Or that you are all alone in this situation for God left you high and dry; so you better start looking for a way out, and if you believe it; then you allowed foolish pride to enter and rob you. Remember you are human, and you can do nothing, but be willing to let God use you, and work through you or to allow God to handle the situation.

We spend more time looking for signs than we do to the answer. Here is a quote I read one time, and it said this: "Don't look at the problem but look to the answer." How true this is because we are not to look at our problems. Why? Because, there are no answers in our problems, and the one who has the answer is Jesus Christ, and he is the one we are to look too.

Pride is of Satan, and it will destroy you. Get rid of that foolish pride.

Bad pride is also when you think you are above someone else. How many times have you seen someone who does not dress like you do, or they may be wearing raggedy clothes, and you say: Ewww, look at that bum? I remember a little town I was living in Michigan, and there was this old man; I say old only because that is how he looked.

This man wore old clothes that you swore was as old as he was and he would walk up and down the highway carrying a sack filled with cans bottles and scraps of metals. The man never once asked for help or money. There was a little restaurant right off the highway that he would every once in a while would stop for some coffee or a meal. He would come in, and people would stare at him, and you knew they were talking about him, but it did not seem to bother this old man any.

One day he just stopped walking up and down the highway, and we never saw him again. I was sitting in the restaurant drinking a cup of coffee with a friend of mine, and I overheard some people talking about this old man. They said there was an article in the paper about this old man who was struck by a car walking along the highway, and he died. That alone made me feel sad, but then they added that this old man dressed in rags was a multimillionaire and lived in a mansion in the city and had many fancy cars.

You know I felt so ashamed because I had that man labeled as a bum when all the time I was the bum compared to him. I let this bad pride walk in and take over and thought myself above and better than that person.

Reminded me about how John the Baptist how he wore camel hair and wore a leather girdle and his diet was locusts and honey.

Matthew 3:4 *And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.*

I can imagine what we would think if that man came knocking on our door dressed like that munching on a locust. Why the first thing that would enter our minds is where is my gun, or somebody please call the police.

If we had seen him walking down the street, we would say he was a few bricks short of a full stack. We would have judged this man as being a lesser creature than we are. We would immediately think ourselves above him. This my friend, is a bad pride that God hates.

Next time you see a man or a woman standing on that street corner holding a sign that says "I am homeless, please help" Start praying for that person and if you can help in some way then help, but not look down your noses at that person and think of yourself better. This kind of Pride God hates.

You who think of yourself holier than the person you are talking too; God hates that kind of pride.

I know of people who can stand, and quote you one scripture after another. They can sit and define every word in the bible. They try to take control of what is said, and that is usually in an argument. That is foolishness, and it is the type of pride God hates. Do you not realize that even Satan knows the bible better than you do? When you use this kind of pride it will stop your prayers from being answered.

Chapter 22

Humble yourself before the Lord

We are to humble ourselves before the Lord. Some people like to call themselves upstanding Christians, and they believe that when God calls us home that they will be the first in line to receive their rewards. Maybe you are one of these people who feel this way.

Many people have so much pride they feel they are above bowing their heads not to mention getting on their knees and bow before God our heavenly Father.

How many times do you bow your heads at the dinner table to give God thanks for the food you are about to eat? Well, I worked for that food, and it was my sweat that put the food on the table. You may be right, but here is my question to you. Who gave you the strength to go out, and by your sweat put food on the table? Who was the one who sent the wind, sun, and rain so that food you are about to put in your mouth could grow? Who was the one who created the seed that were planted to provide vegetables and fruit? Who created the heaven and the earth, the sun, the water? Was it you? If not then you better give thanks to the one who did.

That kind of pride you have will stop your prayers from being answered. Some people are too prideful to thank God for what they are about to eat in public. Afraid someone might see them and label them as a fanatic.

How many times do you call your family together (your husband, your wife, and your children) to get on your knees before God in prayer? Is it every day? Is it once or twice a week? Maybe it is once a month? Perhaps you use to but don't anymore? Maybe you never have. Gathering your family together for prayer and bible study is your responsibility as a parent and as the leader of your home. You are teachers, and it is your job as a parent to teach your children not only how to pray, but also how to humble themselves before God our heavenly Father.

I Peter 5:6, 7 KJV *"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."

When I was home growing up; my mother at bedtime would call all her children together, and she would read to us either from the Bible or from a Bible storybook, and afterward, we would get on our knees to pray. She taught us that we are to humble our selves before God, and we are to bow before him.

Philippians 2: 1-11 KJV *"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,"*

2 "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

3 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

4 "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:'

6 *"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:"*

7 *"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"*

8 *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

9 *"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:"*

10 *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."*

Romans 14:9-12 KJV *"For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living."*

10 *"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."*

11 *"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."*

12 *"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."*

Isaiah 45:22, 23 KJV *"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."*

23 "I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear."

We as Christians are to humble ourselves not only before the Lord, but before our brothers and sisters in Christ, and when the eyes of the world are upon you, and you are a witness for Christ. We are to build each other up in Christ Jesus.

We are to encourage our brothers and sister in Christ to move forward, and to help them become what God has planned for their lives. We are not to look at ourselves, and the work we are doing for God, we are not to seek vainglory or to look for that pat on the back. Because the glory is not ours; the glory belongs to Jesus Christ who died for our sins.

We are to work together as the body of Christ in harmony, and not in strife. Every person and every Christian have their job that they are called to do. There should never be envy or strife within the body of Christ. When there are envy and strife it is because of the pride we have within ourselves. Do the job God has given you to do, and do it to the best of your ability, and help your brother and sister in Christ to do their job also.

Remember Jesus was a servant while he was here on this earth. Jesus went around helping and caring for others. We as Christians are also servants and are to go about helping each other. However, today we have too much pride to help anyone out, or it may be inconvenient for us to help someone. Our ego which is the "bad pride," and the pride God hates, will stop us from being a servant to others, or to ask for help when we need help. We are so full of pride we would rather turn to the world for help, and not turn to God or to that man or woman of God for help.

We live in an instant age today. We think everything is to happen in an instant. We want God to be our Genie in a bottle. We pray God I need a new car, and poof it is supposed to be there. God, I need out of this situation I am in, and poof we find ourselves in a different place. God, I need to have money to do this or that, and poof you have a bankroll in your hand. Is this not how we think? So many of us do. When God does not honor our requests, we have a fit thrown good time, and we say: I don't understand God. Why won't he answer my prayers? I don't feel my prayers went any higher than the ceiling.

There is your answer. Your prayer didn't go any higher than the ceiling, and it never made it to God's ears. Why should it? You broke all the rules for prayer, all because of your foolish pride. When a person truly humbles themselves before God, all the foolish pride is gone, and that is when God will go into action. Remember God does things in his timing, and not ours. We are to serve God, and not God serving us, he is our creator and NOT our Genie. You are the servant; God is the Master.

When God gives you a job to do, he does not all of a sudden change his mind, and say ok shut this down I have something new for you to do now, and leave that job undone. I am not saying God won't move you to someplace different, but that does not mean that your position has changed any. My dad was a church planter, we would move from one place to another, and he would start churches. After we were there awhile God would say ok I will send a pastor for the church you just started. Now I want you to go here or there, and start another church; so off we go. As far as I know, all those churches That dad started are still going today.

Pride and our unwillingness to humble ourselves, and to teach our children to humble themselves, and to bow before God; will stop your prayers from being answered.

I have known some people who refuse to get on their knees and bow before God all because of foolish pride. Some are afraid they may get some dirt on their knees, or they may scuff the toes of their shoes. Some feel it is a sign of weakness and therefore refuses to bow or kneel. Some feel this is embarrassing and humiliating, so they refuse to lower themselves to such things.

For those of you who think that way, I have some heartbreaking news for you. There will come a day that you will submit yourselves, and humble yourselves before God, and as the bible says: Every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:10, 11 KJV *“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.”

Romans 14:11KJV *“For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”*

Many people are going to hell all because of their pride. Many Christians refuse to humble themselves before the Lord, and it is a shame too, because God wants to answer their prayers, but because of their foolish pride it stops their prayers from being answered.

I Peter 5:6, 7 KJV *“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.”

If we will only learn to truly humble ourselves before God because he said he will exalt us in due time. Casting all of your cares upon him, and leave it there he will take care of you. We are to be content with what we have.

Philippians 4:11-13 KJV *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”*

12 “I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Hebrews 13:5 *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*

Don't let pride hinder your blessing from God. God has promised to take care of his children. If we are content with what we have, and we humble ourselves before God, he will raise you up. We are to rejoice in all things and all things give praises unto God.

God will humble you if you do not humble yourselves. You may not like what you are going through, and many think it is very humiliating what God is putting you through, but unless you begin to humble yourselves before God, and bow before him, giving him praises, and learn how to be content with what you have; God will not answer your prayers. You need to get rid of that foolish pride if you don't, it will destroy you, your family, and ministry.

Take time and look at your life and your spiritual life with God. If any of these ten laws broken, it will stop your prayers from being answered.

1. You must be saved.
2. You must have a healthy prayer life making time daily to enter your prayer closet.
3. You must read and study your bible every day.
4. Keep Gods Commandments.
5. When we come before God in Prayer make sure your motives are not selfish and improper.
7. When you ask God for something, look for it, and be ready to work for it. It would be best if you were busy doing Gods work. Sometimes we must work for what we are asking God for.
6. Have faith in God that he will give you that what you ask God for.
8. Always, and I mean always expect God to answer your prayers. Remember you are special to him, and he wants to answer your prayers.
9. Do not have wavering faith believe what you ask for will happen. It is all done on Gods time table and not yours.
10. Do not have pride. Get rid of that foolish pride you may have in your life. God hates pride. Humble your self before the Lord. You are the servant, and Not God, God is the master the Creator, he is the God of all gods, Jesus Christ is the kings of all kings, and Lord of all lords. Get rid of that pride.

Chapter 23

Idolatry, Witchcraft Sorcery, and Lucky Charms.

We have mentioned in this book about Idols (Idolatry). The Bible says that Idolatry is a sin and God is a jealous God. We are to worship Him and Him only. Having Idols in you life will stop all prayers from being answered.

In **Exodus 20:1-7 (KJV)**

1 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.

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

God gave Moses the 10 Commandment which you will find in Exodus Chapter 20 Note the very first commandment is v.3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. God was direct to the point he did not give any leeway, no what if's, no exceptions. He said you will not have any gods before me.

Then he goes on to say: *V.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.*

V.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;

V.6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

He could not be any plainer on what he wants as he was in these verses. He did not beat around the bush about any of it, but yet our churches and our homes are full of graven images.

We have churches that tell us to worship the saints to pray to Virgin Mary they have made graven images of these once mortals and wanted you to bow and worship them.

Nowhere in the bible does God instruct us to do so. We are not to worship creation only the creator. Romans 1:25 (KJV) 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 1:25 New International Version (NIV)

25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Romans 1:25 English Standard Version (ESV)

25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

When you serve other gods and when you worship the creation and not the creator you have sinned against God. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a creation and she cannot hear your prayers. Buddha was a creation and cannot hear your prayers.

Satan and all his demons is a creation, and even though he can listen to your prayers he will not honor your prayers, and he has minimal powers. He can not create anything. He is a liar and the father of lies we are not to worship him. He is the great deceiver, he is a dangerous being, and we are not to praise him. A child of God does not need to be afraid of Satan because Jesus defeated him on the cross and his resurrection. We are to have our armor of God on, and we are to stand against him.

When we worship other gods, it angers God, and he will turn us over to a reprobate mind. A reprobate mind is when God rejects you and turn you over to a depraved, unprincipled, corrupt, and dishonest or wicked mind. God removes himself from our minds and heart as we see in verses 26 - 32.

When we remove God from our homes, schools, churches, and our mind we are putting our selves in danger of God turning us over to a reprobate mind. We are then in great danger of God's anger and his wrath. We are seeing this taking place in the United States, and we as the church and Christians need to be repenting and shed these idols and bring God back into our nation, schools, churches, and our homes, and lives.

Homosexuality and lawlessness are on a rampage and are taking over our country. False religion has crept into our government and has demanded that God and Christianity be removed from our society, this is what happens when we worship other Gods, and we seek the lust of the flesh. Anyone that worships and serves other gods will never please that god and that god will demand more from us until our end is in the lake of fire.

Our children are paying a high price for our sins. How? Look at all the school shooting. We have demanded God to remove himself from our schools and leave our children unprotected. Unborn babies killed every day. Our children pay a high price for our selfish lust. All of this will hinder your prayers from being answered. We must turn from these types of sin and take a stand against it.

Lucky Charms

Oh how we all have grown up to believe in luck and lucky charms. There are so many lucky charms out there that I could never mention them all. Each group of people all over the world has their own set of lucky charms to ward off evil

Many of these so-called charms are a form of witchcraft and are against God. Let us take a look at a few.

But first I want to explain why charms or lucky charms are evil and will stop your prayers from being answered.

Anything that you put your trust in and your faith and trust is not in God is a sin. You may say well I trust in God too. No, you don't trust God. If you believed in God and had all your faith in God, you would not have a charm. God will not be shared with Satan or any other god. The lucky charms are from Satan it is another way he gets your faith and trust away from God.

Well, I see nothing wrong with a few simple charms, after all, they are harmless. Harmless is a false statement; This kind is not harmless will lead you to a reprobate mind and into the Lake of Fire.

Find a penny on heads they say will bring you good luck. Some say find a penny on tails is bad luck and you should turn it over to heads for the next person to find, some say finding a penny is lucky. I say, finding a penny just made you a penny richer, put it in a piggy bank or spend it.

Rabbit foot is supposed to bring you luck. How many time have you seen someone or maybe you do your self carry a rabbit's foot.

Horseshoe is also to bring you luck.

Finding a coin and kiss it is supposed to bring you luck or bring you more money.

- Four leaf clovers.
- Throwing salt over your shoulder.
- Having different types of plants in the house.
- Penny in a shoe.

I have mentioned a small number of lucky charms, and every one of them is a sin to believe in. Every lucky charm is of Satan, and God hates them because it takes your trust from God and into a so-called lucky charm. It will stop and hinder your prayers from being answered. Get those lucky charms out of your home and out of your life and put God in their places.

Look at it this way, God created you. You may be saying: No my mom and dad created me and that statement is false. God created everything so that you could be born. God created you in your mother's womb he had all the ingredients there, and out of those ingredients, he formed you.

So if God created you and all of humanity, then he has the right to demand worship from us. He has the right to expect you to keep his laws and statutes and to have your total trust and faith in him.

If you made a chair to sit on and every time you go to sit on it it would collapse, and no matter how you would reinforce it when you go to sit on it it would collapse and hurt you. Would you not get angry and destroy that chair and cast it into the fire?

It angers God when we follow and worship other gods. It hurts god when your total faith and trust is not in God. He is our creator, and he is worthy to have our full trust and worship.

Chapter 24

Rebellion and Witchcraft

Did you know that God considers rebellion as part of, and equal to witchcraft?

The bible says in 1 Samuel 15:22 & 23 v.22 *"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."*

23 *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king."*

God hates rebellion, and he will turn his back on a rebellious person just as he did with King Saul. Rebellion can and will destroy a person; It will ruin their home, their church, their ministry, their country, and their lives. It destroyed King Saul it cost him, his anointing, his calling, his kingdom, and his life.

Rebellion is when you refuse to do what God has asked you to do. Because Samson rebelled against God, Delia deceived him, and Samson fell into her deceiving trap, and she cut his hair, and enemy captures him with ease, and they blinded him and took him and chained between two pillars.

God removed his anointing from Samson and all his strength. Samson was a mighty man a great warrior until he disobeyed God. God told him not to cut his hair, but his weakness for women caused him to tell Delia what the source of his strength was when she asked him, and while he was asleep she cut his hair, and that is when Sampson became weak.

God lifted his anointing from Sampson because of his disobedience. Sampson did repent of his sin, and his hair grew back, and his strength was given back to him, he destroyed the Philistines, but it cost him his life.

God may have called you into a ministry of some kind. Yes everyone has work to do in the body of Christ there are no loafers so to speak we all have a specific job to do. God asked you to do something or want you to go, and you say I am not going for whatever your reason may be, this is call rebellion.

When you rebel against God and you disobey his commandments, and his statutes, God will lift his spirit from you as he did King Saul and Samson. The bible says in Genesis 6:3 "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

The flesh of man is sinful as well as the human nature is sinful; therefore we must always be at war with the flesh, and our sinful nature. We can be so set in our sinful nature that it becomes our comfort zone and we reject the spirit of God, The sins of the flesh we desire for it gives us great pleasure for a season; therefore, we forsake and reject the spirit of God as did Saul and Samson.

1Samuel 15:1-3 ESV God anoints Saul king over Israel and at the same time God gave Saul a mission to carry out.

V1 And Samuel said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the Lord. V2 Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. V3 Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

Saul rebelled and did not complete his mission to the letter. God gave him a list he was to complete but instead, Saul spared the sheep the oxen and the fatted calves, and he also spared the king of Amalek. Saul did the opposite of what God commanded, He did everything his way and did not regard God.

We see this a lot in our world today Rebellion is one of the tops of the list sins, God hates. It ranks with witchcraft. Maybe you know someone who has a very rebellious spirit about them. Like the song, Frank Sinatra sang "I Did It My Way." Some of us are also singing my way song of life when it should be God's way.

The difference between Saul and Samson is, Samson regretted and repented of his sin, and Saul didn't yes Saul went and worshipped God, but he never repented of his sin. It is regrettable when we are so rebellious and knowingly sin and yet never have a repenting heart. God lifted his spirit from King Saul; God Lifted his anointing off of King Saul, God raised his protection off of King Saul.

We all have rebelled at one time or another, sometimes our rebellion cost us dearly, and we lived to regret what we have done. Teenagers are often labeled as the rebellious generation. It was true when we were kids and still holds today. We rebelled against our parents, our teachers, our government and the laws of the land. We rebel against our husband or those over us. When we do, we rebel against God.

We need to stop rebelling and repent of it. Rebellion will stop your prayers from being answered. I will also lift the anointing of God off your life, and God will remove his protection from you.

Witchcraft will stop your prayers from being answered.

The Lords Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

References

All References taken from the King James Version Bible (KJV) and New International Version Bible (NIV)

Greek and Hebrew Definitions was taken from The Strongest Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ *Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.*

⁶ *For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.*

⁷ *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.*

⁸ *For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

⁹ *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

¹⁰ *I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

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