

# Hindrances to Prayer

1 Peter 3:7

## Introduction:

- A. Christians ought always to pray. (Lk. 18:1)
- B. Christians need the benefits of prayer:
  - 1. Necessities of life. (Matt. 6:11; Jas. 4:2).
  - 2. A quiet & peaceful life (1 Tim. 2:1,2).
  - 3. “Sanctified” food (1 Tim. 4:4,5).
  - 4. Peace of mind. (Phil. 4:5-6).
  - 5. Forgiveness (Acts 8:22; Mt. 6:12).
- C. Christians need no *hindrances* to prayer.

## Discussion:

### I. An Improper Attitude Toward God.

- A. Praying while sinning against Him. (Prov. 28:9; John 9:31).
  - 1. Refuse to repent and be baptized.
  - 2. Forsaking assembling together (Heb. 10:25).
  - 3. Living worldly lives: Drinking, lasciviousness (cf. Pray at game in immodest dress).
  - 4. Refusing to work thing prayed for (Bread - 2 Thess 3:10; Good children - Eph. 6:4).
- B. Praying while doubting God (Jas. 1:6,7).
- C. Praying without submitting to His will (1 John 5:14,15) — Our will be done, not his.

### II. An Improper Attitude Toward Others.

- A. Mistreating others.
  - 1. Family (1 Pet. 3:7).
  - 2. Defrauding neighbor.
- B. Unwilling to forgive (Matt. 6:12, 14-15).

### III. An Improper Attitude Toward Ourselves.

- A. Self-centered prayer. (Me, my wife, son John, his wife ...”)
  - 1. To spend on own pleasures (Jas 4:3).
  - 2. To receive praise from others (Matt. 6:5,6)
- B. Lack of self-discipline hinders us from praying.
  - 1. Self-discipline needed to pray constantly. (Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17).
  - 2. Self-discipline needed to pray fervently. (Jas. 5:16; Col. 4:12).
  - 3. Self-discipline needed to pray sincerely. (Ps. 17:1)

## Conclusion:

- A. We need prayer so badly — must not hinder it.
- B. We need to pray, but do not substitute it for obedience and godliness.