#### HIGHER AIM

### **Getting Through To God**

James 5:16

# **INTRODUCTION NOTES** We must understand that God wants His children to be praying. Today's key Scripture verse is very clear, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." This is not because of how we have lived, but because God has declared us righteous in Christ. Jesus is powerful. Our prayer life is powerful and effective. Is there anything happening in your life that is keeping you from getting through to God in your prayer life? I believe there are three things that can hinder you from getting through to God when it comes to prayer, and we're going to look at those three things in today's message. **KEY POINTS** 1. Personal sin hinders prayer. Nothing will clog your ability to communicate with God more than personal sin. You want God to intervene in your life, but personal sin hampers this. Many of us are getting a busy signal when we call for help on Heaven's hotline because of personal sin. Our prayers seem to just bounce off the ceiling. That may be true. Why? Because of personal sin. God is more concerned with our walking with Him than our requests. Our fellowship with the Father is essential for spiritual maturity and Christian growth. If you are not having a personal quiet time alone with God every day, you will be an ineffective believer. While you are in the Word, the power of the Holy Spirit will quicken your mind and touch your heart. This will cause you to pour your heart out to Him, with all your cares and all your concerns. You will offer your praise and thanksgiving to Him. If you are not doing this every day, you will be a very weak believer. We need the discipline of a prayer life, a personal prayer life where no one keeps us accountable except for the Spirit's tug within our hearts. This is essential for maturity and effectiveness as believers.

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### 2. Self-sufficiency hinders prayer.

One of the things that keeps us from getting through to God is prayerful inactivity. We just say, "I got myself into this mess and it's my responsibility to get myself out." That is one of Satan's biggest whispers. It is a lie to say it is all about you, that it's your job to take care of everything. But it's a sad reality when believers who live a life of self-sufficiency are asking God for nothing. God is there to help us always, and He is able to take care of everything. We can't do anything completely on our own, no matter how hard we try. Therefore, our prayer life is negatively impacted when we act as if we're self-sufficient.

#### 3. Inappropriate motives hinder prayer.

It's important that we have the right motives when it comes to prayer. Often we pray for something that sounds holy and righteous, but the motive behind the prayer is actually quite selfish. It is my prayer that, as believers, we would let God in to test us and to know our anxious thoughts. Let God in and say, "Jesus would you just show me if I'm not walking right with you?" If you do that, God will speak to you personally. He will reveal to you what your motives are, and He will give you the chance to repent and align your motives with His plans and purposes so that you can follow Him more closely.

NOTES

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## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1.	Which of the three points we discussed today are hindering your prayer life
	currently?

2. When was the last time you tried to take care of something yourself, thinking you were self-sufficient, instead of praying about it? What can you learn from that situation?

3. What is one practical step you can take to walk away from the hindrances w discussed today and have a more fruitful and thriving prayer life?

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