

# Hindrances to Effective Prayer

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle starry field. Overlaid on this are several faint, light blue technical diagrams. In the top right, there is a large circular gauge with a scale from 0 to 210 and a needle pointing towards 180. Below it is another circular diagram with concentric circles and arrows. In the bottom left, there is a partial circular diagram with an arrow. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and technical.

## **JAMES 5:16** NKJV

*[a]Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, [b]fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*



# What is it that makes Prayers ineffective.

1. Sin; It is impossible for God to hear you when you are harboring sin in your heart. Ps.66:18; Isa.59:1-2; 1:15; Prov.28:9;
2. Idols In your heart - this is when you have something other than God that you have your faith or hope in even as you are praying. Jer.17:5; Ezek.14:1-3;
3. An unforgiving heart. Mk.11:25; Matt.6:14-15; 5:23-24;
4. Selfishness, wrong motives. Prov.21:13; James 4:3;
5. Wrong treatment of your spouse. 1 Pet.3:7



## **PSALM 66:18** NKJV

If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

## **ISAIAH 59:1-2**

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.



## ISAIAH 1:15 NKJV

When you [a]spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of [b]blood.

## PROVERBS 28:9

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,  
Even his prayer is an abomination.



## **JEREMIAH 17:5** NKJV

Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from  
the Lord.

## **EZEKIEL 14:1-3**

Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat  
before me. 2 And the word of the Lord came to me,  
saying, 3 “Son of man, these men have set up their idols  
in their hearts, and put before them that which causes  
them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be  
inquired of at all by them?



## **MARK 11:25** NKJV

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

## **MATTHEW 6:14-15**

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

## **MATTHEW 5:23-24**

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

## PROVERBS 21:13 NKJV

Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor Will also cry himself and not be heard

## JAMES 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

## 1 PETER 3:7

*7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*



# What is it that makes Prayers ineffective.

6. Self-righteousness. Lk.18:10-14;

## LUKE 18:10-14

*“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be [a]humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*



# What is it that makes Prayers ineffective.

7. Unbelief. Jas.1:6-7

**JAMES 1:6-7 NKJV**

*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*



# What is it that makes Prayers ineffective.

8. Hypocrisy and pride Matt.6:5; Job 35:12-13

## MATTHEW 6:5 NKJV

*“And when you pray, you shall not be like the [a]hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

## JOB 35:12-13

*12 There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men. 13 Surely God will not listen to empty talk, Nor will the Almighty regard it.*



# What is it that makes Prayers ineffective.

9. Not praying according to the will of God. 1 John 5:14-15

1 JOHN 5:14-15 NKJV

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*



What is it that makes Prayers ineffective.

10. Not seeking first the kingdom of God. It is only when you seek first the kingdom of God that all other things are guaranteed unto you.

**MATTHEW 6:33** NKJV

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*



# What is it that makes Prayers ineffective.

11. Not knowing what or how to pray as we should. When you do not know what to pray or how you ought to pray, Prayer is hindered. And that is why it is essential to let the Holy spirit pray through you. Praying in tongues gives the Holy spirit that opportunity.

## ROMANS 8:26-27 NKJV

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession [a]for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*



# What is it that makes Prayers ineffective.

## 12. Satanic and Demonic hindrances.

### **DANIEL 10:10-13 NKJV**

*Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11 And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. 12 Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.*



# PRAYER

Father in the name of Jesus empower me and every member of this church to overcome all the hindrances sabotaging the effectiveness of our prayers and intercessions; let every demonic interference in each of our prayer lives and with our prayers be terminated immediately in the name of Jesus. Ps.66:18; Dan.10:10-13; Jas.5:16;

