

Hindrances to Effective Prayer

1. Lack of _____ (Col. 4:2; Mt. 6:6)
2. _____ sin (Ps. 66:18; Josh. 7:6-10)
 - God's solution: _____ our sins (Ps. 32:3-6; Jas. 5:16)
3. Unwillingness to _____ others (Mt. 6:12, 14-15)
 - Not _____ them → taking God's _____
 - Hinders our _____ in prayer
4. _____ (Lk. 18:9-14) – _____ collector and Pharisee
 - Whose prayer was effective? _____ Why?
 - Mt. 6:5 – praying to be honored by _____
5. _____ – wrong _____ (Jas. 4:3; Mt. 6:32-33)
 - Self-centered vs. _____ – centered (Mt. 6:9-10; 1 Jn. 5:14-15)
6. Meaningless _____ (Mt. 6:7) – _____ prayers
 - _____ repetition (1 Kings 18:26)
7. _____ – lack of _____ in God's ability (Jas. 1:5-8)
 - Lack of _____ / Not _____ / Afraid to ask _____
 - Failure to see the _____ realities (Eph. 6:12→18)
8. Not praying in the _____ (Eph. 6:18; Rom. 8:26-27)
 - Spirit helps us to pray according to the _____ of God
 - Requires being _____ with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
9. Not _____ in Jesus – or His words _____ in me
 - *Sword of the* _____ (Eph. 6:17) – Col. 3:16 → Eph. 5:18
 - Jn. 15:7 / Prov. 28:9
10. Not praying in Jesus' _____ (Jn. 14:13-14)
 - *In His name* = who Jesus _____ and all He _____
vs. praying in our _____ name (Lk. 18:11-12)
11. Not _____ your _____ (1 Pet. 3:7)
 - Regarding her as your _____ in life and ministry

My Application

Discussion Questions: Hindrances to Prayer

1. Consider the following incidents in Scripture:
 - Luke 18:11-12** – re-write the prayer of the Pharisee such that it bypasses the “hindrances” to effective prayer.
 - Nehemiah 1:5-11** – what are the characteristics of the prayer of Nehemiah that counter the “hindrances” to effective prayer?
 - Acts 4:23-31** (after Peter and John's release from arrest) – what are the characteristics of the prayer of the believers that counter the “hindrances” to effective prayer?
 - Acts 5:1-10** – construct a prayer by Ananias and Sapphira (between v. 1 and v. 2) that would have reflected a right heart and response.
2. What is *one thing* you definitely want to take away with you from today's message?

How do you plan to *follow through* on that *one thing*?
3. Select a prayer from Scripture and pray it together with and / or for a partner.