

## Things That Hinder Our Prayers

No. 250

### Introduction.

- I. **Years ago young boy went to the local store with his mother.** The kind shop owner passed him a large jar of suckers and invited him to help himself to a handful. Uncharacteristically, the boy held back. So the shop owner pulled out a handful for him. When outside, the boy's mother asked why he had suddenly been so shy and wouldn't take a handful of suckers when offered. The boy replied, "Because his hand is much bigger than mine!" That, my friends is true of God. His hand is much bigger than ours!
  - A. **He will then bless us more than we can imagine.** (Eph. 3:20; Jas. 5:16).
  - B. **Prayer is indeed a source of great power and blessings.** We have the privilege of praying to the all-powerful God of heaven. It is imperative that stay in constant communication with God and do nothing to lose this communication and forfeit all the blessings of prayer.
- II. **Once I read about a man who was in a severe storm producing winds 70 to 80 miles per hour.** The man tried to call his brother and warn him and his family that a possible tornado was headed their way. His brother answered the phone, but the line became static and then it went dead. That was a very scary time because he lost all communication to warn his loved ones of a possible tornado.
  - A. It would be terrible to lose communication with your family, but let me tell you something that is 100 times worse than not being able to communicate with you family when the phone lines are down. It is not being able to get through to God in prayer.
  - B. When we pray to God, we want Him to hear our prayers without static and without the line going dead.
  - C. We want Him to clearly hear our every word and respond to us with His love, power, and mercy.
- III. Today, I want to share with you **"Seven Things That Hinder Our Prayers To God."**
  - A. It is vital that we pray every day and avoid these hindrances to prayer..
  - B. **Edwin Harvey** said, "A day without prayer is a day without blessing, and a life without prayer is a life without power."
- I. **Praying To Be Seen Of Men** - Praying to be seen of men hinders our prayers. (Matt. 6:5, 6).
  - A. **Jesus here talks about some who prayed to be seen of men.** They would stand on the street corners and the synagogues so men could see them pray. They wanted others to be impressed with their righteousness. They wanted others to know how good and how religious they were. Jesus said they had their reward. They received the praise of men, but not the praise of God. As far as God was concerned their prayers were useless.
  - B. **Today we must be careful that we pray with sincerely of heart.** Prayers that are uttered to impress others go no higher than the ceiling. Prayers uttered to please God are very effectual and have great power.
- II. **Failure To Ask** - Failure to ask is a hindrance to prayer.
  - A. Some never ask because of wickedness or indifference.