

## Lesson 3

### SIN HINDERS OUR PRAYERS

1. **Mark 11 :25** and **Matthew 5:23**. One day a man prayed, but God did not hear or answer his prayer because there was sin in the man's life, which was blocking his prayers. This man had been in an argument with another man, and he was still feeling very angry and had bad feelings towards the other man. God could not answer this man's prayers, because there was bitterness in the man's heart, and he was holding on to anger and bad feelings,.
2. **Ephesians 4:26-27 Proverbs 28:13, Mark 11:25, Matthew 5:24** ". ..go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God." The Bible says that when we have had an argument, disagreement or said hurtful things to someone, we must do whatever we can to make things right. This man went to the person he had wronged, told him he was sorry and asked for forgiveness for the way in which he had acted.
3. **Psalms 66: 18**. Now when the man prays, God hears and answers his prayers. There is no sin in the man's heart hindering his prayers. We must also remember that when someone has said hurtful or wrong things about us, and even if the other person does not come and ask for forgiveness, we must still forgive that person in our heart. If we stay angry our prayers will be hindered and we will not have joy and peace in our lives. There are many different types of sins which could be in our hearts, and which stop us from coming close to God in prayer. If we feel that God isn't answering our prayers, then we should examine our hearts, and ask God to show us if there is any sin in our lives (**Psalms 139:23-24**).
4. If things are not right in our marriages, this will also hinder our prayers. The Bible says, "Wives must submit yourselves to your husband" **I Peter 3:1**. If a woman talks badly about her husband, is angry with him much of the time, gives him shame or does not respect him, God will not hear her prayers. But if a wife is loving, obedient and kind towards her husband, God hears and answers her prayers.
5. **I Peter 3:7**. If a man is selfish, shouts at his wife, puts her down, and only thinks of himself, God will not hear and answer his prayers. Husbands must be kind, loving, thoughtful and helpful towards their wives. If a man does this, nothing will prevent his prayers from being heard and answered.
6. A person is praying but God does not answer. This person could be a woman who did not obey her husband, or it could be a man who is not kind to his wife. Conflict between husband and wife and within a family stops many prayers from being answered. However, God hears and answers the prayers of a man who is considerate of his wife, and the prayers of a wife who respects her husband. As Christians we must be careful how we treat each other inside our marriages. We do not want anything interfering with our prayers and our relationship with God.
7. **I John 3:21-23**. A person prays and God hears his prayers. There is nothing in this person's heart and life that hinders his prayers. If our hearts are clean and there is no sin in our lives we don't have to be ashamed to come to God in prayer. God delights to answer the prayers of people who love, trust, and obey God.
8. God wants to answer the prayers of those who hear and obey his Word. This person is always ready to listen, read and obey God's Word. He does not sleep in church or become lazy in studying God's Word.
9. God loves us and he wants us to believe that Jesus died to take away our sins. He wants us to love one another ~ and have a truly forgiving attitude towards those who have wronged us. We should be helpful to the elderly and poor. Married men and women should be loving, helpful and respectful of each other.  
**I John 3:21-23** says, "If our conscience does not condemn us, we have courage in God's presence. We receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. What he commands is that we believe in his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as Christ commanded us."

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MT. 5:23  
MK. 11:25

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MT 5:24

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PS 66:18

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1 PET 3:1

1 PET 3:7

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1 JN 3:21-23

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1 JN 3:21-23