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Prayer - Your Foundation For Success

# 10. Hindrances to Prayer

The chapter argues that unanswered prayer is never God's unwillingness but comes from hindrances the believer allows. It walks through the main obstacles one by one and shows how to remove each so prayer gets results.

## Key takeaways

- Doubt and unbelief block prayer. Doubt comes from not knowing God's Word; unbelief is knowing it but trusting what you see and feel instead. Make God's Word the final authority and expect things to change.
- Not knowing your right-standing with God hinders prayer. Through Jesus you are made the righteousness of God, so you can approach without guilt and expect to be heard.
- Not knowing your right to use Jesus' Name is a hindrance. As God's child you have the family name; pray in it expecting the Father to answer.
- Unforgiveness and strife stop prayer cold. Forgive when you pray, pursue harmony (especially husband and wife), and refuse to join in strife.

- Neglecting fellowship with God weakens prayer. Set apart quiet, undistracted time to listen, not just to ask; fellowship drives out fear and doubt and builds faith.

## Passages worth keeping

> *"All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."*

The chapter's foundation — answered prayer hinges on believing.

> *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

Applied to the believer already made righteous in Christ, so their prayer avails much now.

## How it connects

The common thread is knowledge and relationship: most hindrances are things the believer doesn't yet know or act on (their righteousness, the Name, the need to forgive and fellowship). Removing them is less about trying harder and more about trusting God's Word and staying in harmony with Him and others.

## Scripture referenced

- **Matthew 21:22** -- Believing prayer receives
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** -- Jesus became our sin so we become God's righteousness
- **John 16:23** -- Right to ask the Father in Jesus' Name

- **Mark 11:25-26** -- Forgive when you pray or you won't be forgiven
- **1 Peter 3:7** -- A husband dishonoring his wife has hindered prayers
- **1 John 1:3-4** -- We are called into fellowship with the Father