

OBSTACLES TO PRAYER

Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you! May the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! May the Lord turn his face upon you and give you peace!"

If our desire is to be in God's presence every day, to live and walk with the Holy Spirit, and to receive answers to our prayers or revelations, visions, dreams, prophecies or gifts, it is necessary to remove from our lives all obstacles and impediments that interrupt our relationship with God. Only when we are in fellowship, approved, and rooted in God's Word, can we take authority over the enemy. Our position when we are in the middle of the battle is to win by standing firm in the faith.

1 - Pride

Pr 16:18 "Pride precedes destruction, and a haughty spirit precedes fall."

2 - The lust of the eyes and the flesh

Jom 1:14-15 Everyone is tempted by his own lust, which attracts and deceives him. Then concupiscence, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is committed, produces death.

3 - Pride

Pr 13:10 Out of pride cometh nothing but strife...

1 Tim 6:4-5 a proud ... he knows nothing; but he fixates on questions and disputes of words, from which envy, disputes, backbiting, bad suspicions, bitter discussions arise.

4 - Disobedience

1 Peter 2:7-8 The unbelievers ... being disobedient, they stumble in speech; and for this they were also destined.

2 Thess 1:7-8 The Lord Jesus will appear from heaven with the angels of his power, in a flaming fire, to avenge those who do not know God, and those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

1 Sa 15:22 "Does the LORD like burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as obeying his voice? No, obedience is better than sacrifice, listening is worth more than the fat of rams...

5 - The rebellion

1 Sa 15:23 Rebellion is like the sin of divination, and stubbornness it is like the worship of idols and domestic gods.

1:10-11,16 "There are many rebels, talkers, and deceivers of minds, men who upset whole families, teaching things they ought not to do, for the sake of dishonest gain. They profess to know God, but deny Him in deeds, being abominable and rebellious, incapable of any good work.

6 - Fornication

1 Corinthians 5:1 "It is even heard that there is fornication among you; and such immorality, which is not found even among the pagans...

1 Corinthians 6:13,18-19 But the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord.... Flee from fornication. Every other sin that man commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you and whom you have received from God? So you don't belong to yourself.

1 Thess 4:3-4 "This is the will of God, that you should sanctify yourselves, that you abstain from fornication, that each one of you should know how to possess your own body in holiness and honor...

1 Thess 5:23 "Let your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, be kept blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

7 - Idolatry, anything or person that takes the place of God or the first place: Husband, wife, children, TV, entertainment, leisure, sports, hobbies etc.

Eze 14:3 "Son of man, these men have lifted up idols in their hearts, and have stood before the stumbling block that causes them to fall into their iniquity; how could I be consulted by them?"

8 - The interruption of family or fraternal communion.

1 Peter 3:7 ... you, husbands, live together with your wives... Honour them, for they too are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Jn 4:20 "If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

9 - The sin that continues to dwell in our hearts, the unconfessed sin.

Ps 66:18 If I had plotted evil in my heart, the Lord would not have listened to.

10 - Hate

Pr 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife...

Pr 26:24-26 "He who hates speaks in dissimulation; but, inside, meditate on deception; when he speaks in a gracious voice, do not trust, for he has seven abominations in his heart. His hatred is hidden under fiction, but his wickedness will be revealed in the assembly.

11 - Avarice

Pr 28:25 He that hath a greedy mind stirrth up strife...

Hab 2:9 Woe to him who is greedy for illicit gain for his house...

Lk 12:15 "Be careful, and beware of all covetousness; for it is not from the abundance of goods that one possesses that he has his life.

12 - Discord

Pr 17:1,19 "Better is a piece of dry bread with peace than a house full of flesh with discord." He who loves quarrels loves sin...

Pr 18:19 Quarrels between brethren are like the bars of a castle.

13 - Jealousy

Jom 3:14 "If you have bitter jealousy and strife in your hearts, do not boast or lie against the truth. This is not wisdom that comes down from above; but it is earthly, animal and diabolical.

14 - Envy

Jom 3:16 For where there is envy and strife, there is disorder and every evil deed.

Pr 14:30 Envy is the decay of the bones.

15 - Bitterness and resentment

Eph 4:31 "Put away from you all bitterness, and all sorrow, and wrath, and clamour, and abusive speech, with every kind of wickedness.

16 - The lack of forgiveness, if we do not forgive even God can forgive us
Mt 18:33 "Were you not also to have pity on your fellow servant, as I have had pity on you?

Eph 4:32 "But be kind and merciful to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ."

Mk 11:25 "When you pray, if you have anything against anyone, forgive; so that your Father who is in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Mt 6:15 "If you do not forgive men, neither is your Father." He will forgive your sins.

Lk 6:37 Forgive, and it will be forgiven you.

17. The critical spirit, secretly slandering one's neighbor.

Ps 101:5 He who speaks of his neighbor in secret; he who has a haughty eye and a proud heart I will not bear.

Jom 4:11 "Do not speak ill of one another, brethren.

Pr 26:22 "The words of the backbiter are like gluttony, they penetrate to the depths of the bowels.

Co 3:8-10 You also put down all these things: wrath, anger, malice, slander; and let no obscene words come out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, for you have put off the old man by his works and have put on the new, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of him who created it.

18 - The judgment

Mt 7:1-2 "Do not judge, lest you be judged; for with the judgment with which you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure with which you measure, it will be measured to you.

Rom 2:1 Therefore, O man, whoever thou art that thou mayst judge, thou art inexcusable; because in judging others you condemn yourself; for you who judge, do the same things.

1 Corinthians 4:5 "Judge nothing before your time until the Lord comes, and will bring to light what is hidden in darkness, and manifest the thoughts of hearts; then each one will have his praise from God.

19 - Revenge

Rom 12:19-21 "Do not take your revenge, my beloved, but give way to the wrath of God; for it is written: "Vengeance is on me; I will give the retribution," says the Lord. Indeed, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

20 - Doubt

Jom 1:6-8 "He who doubts is like a wave of the sea, tossed about by the wind and tossed hither and thither. Such a man should not think that he will receive anything from the Lord, because he is double-minded, unstable in all his ways.

Jude 1:22-23 "Have mercy on those who are in doubt; save them, tearing them out of the fire...

21 - Unbelief

Mt 13:58 "And there (in his own country), because of their unbelief, (Jesus) did not do many powerful works.

Heb 3:12 "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil and unbelieving heart, which will turn you away from the living God...

Jn 20:27 "Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

22 - Fear

Pr 29:25 The fear of men is a snare: but he that trusteth in the LORD is safe.

Mt 8:26 "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?"

1 Joh 4:18-19 "In love there is no fear; On the contrary, perfect love casts out fear, because he who is afraid fears punishment. So those who are afraid are not perfect in love. We love because he loved us first.

23 - Ignoring aid to the poor, orphans, widows and the needy.

Pr 21:13 "He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will cry out also, and will not be answered him."

Jom 1:27 "Pure and unblemished religion before God and the Father is this, to succor orphans and widows in their afflictions, and to keep oneself clean from the world."

Deut 15:7,11 "If there be a needy brother among you in one of the cities of the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, neither shall you shut your hand before your needy brother. ... therefore I give you this commandment and I say to you: open your hand generously to the poor and needy brother who is in your country.

24. Laziness, not taking communion, not attending prayer meetings, not meditating and studying the Word of God, not praying, not serving.

Heb 10:24 "Let us look out for one another to incite to love and good works, not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together as some are wont to do, but exhorting one another; all the more so as you see the day approaching.

25 - Familiar spirits and links with objects, or videos, images, music, books, paintings that are part of or recall the past before conversion, because they constitute a link with people of the past living or dead, objects received as gifts and brought into the house (some objects may be cursed)

Lm 5:7 "Our fathers sinned, and are no more; we bear the penalty of their iniquities.

Jos 7:11-12 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed the covenant I had commanded them to observe; They even took the interdict, stole it, lied, and put it among their belongings. Therefore the children of Israel will not be able to resist their enemies and will turn their backs on them, because they themselves have become interdicted. I will no longer be with you unless you destroy the interdict in your midst.

26 - The Curses

Is 24:5-6 "The earth is profaned by its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, broke the commandment, broke the covenant eternal. Therefore a curse has devoured the earth and its inhabitants bear the penalty; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are consumed and few people are left.

Jer 23:9 For the land is full of adulterers; in fact, the country is tormented because of the curse that strikes it...

So before we pray for ourselves or for anyone, let us examine our conduct and our faith, also asking the Lord to examine us if we are unconsciously in a state of sin, or contaminated by hidden sins, or if our faith falters. After receiving an answer, let us humble ourselves, ask God for forgiveness and purify ourselves with the blood of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 13:13 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen