

Hindrances to Answered Prayer

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There are many places in our lives today where Satan wants to get in and cause peace to be taken from us, our health not as it should be, questionable finances, things in our life that could be trusted in that could be considered an idol, and many other things where our peace can be taken from us.

God's Word informs us in many places that there is a hindrance to receiving our victories. For an example, Joseph was trusting on the butler to get him out of prison. It took two full years before he gave up hope on the butler to say something to Pharaoh before he got his release.

The children of Israel spent forty years wandering in the desert and even made a golden image, an idol that they wanted to place their trust on, instead of placing their trust on the living God above, who wanted to do great things for them. They even blamed God for their troubles instead of getting the hindrances out of the way so they could enjoy perfect peace and happiness.

Everything that we could need or desire has been given to us through the Blood of Christ and God is more anxious for us to be righteous, happy, and well, and have peace in our homes, with our husband, wife and children in perfect health and acting right, than we are to receive it.

When all hindrances are out of the way, then God can and will work quickly and effectually to accomplish all that we could need or desire.

One hindrance could be covered sin or knowing something that could be questionable and not be willing to give God the benefit of the doubt and to make a change. If something comes to mind and we keep

brushing it off, saying, "That can't be so bad," Be aware, God is trying to work, and we are hindering His power from working.

As the late Pastor said, "This would rob us of all faith in God and would hinder us from receiving what He has already given to us." There is no use to ask God for anything as long as we don't take the right attitude toward something that He is trying to show to us.

Another hindrance to answered prayer could be, 'trusting in the least thing besides God for any kind of deliverance'. Of all the hindrances in the world that would shut out the power of God from working, more than anything else, is to have a human plan in our hearts that we could depend upon, or something that we thought about doing, instead of trusting in the living God alone.

If we don't place our case fully into God's hands to stay and trust Him alone for it, He can't do a thing for us. Many are longing for peace in the home, with loved ones and family. But continue to use efforts of their own and what they say and do to convince others to make a change and God doesn't get a chance to give the peace that He is so willing to give to them.

When we ask God to do anything for us, it must be placed altogether in His hands to accomplish, all human plans and means must be eliminated altogether. The reason for that is, the human heart in its natural state, is so deceitful that if it saw some human means the size of a pinhead, that it could depend upon, it would put more confidence in that than the great God of Heaven. As Jeremiah tells us in chapter 17 verse 9, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*"

There is only one possible way of trusting God alone and that is to get every human means and dependence out of the way finally and forever, and then God's power can and will work quickly and effectually.

Another hindrance to getting our victories could be a wavering heart. It is totally useless to ask God for anything unless it has been settled finally and forever to depend on Him alone. That's what James tells

us in his first chapter, verses 6 and 7, "*But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*"

That shows the importance of settling it that, when we place anything in God's hands, we must leave it there, regardless of the consequences. God cannot do anything for us until that decision is made, and when it is, there is no power on earth that can stop God's great power and love from working in our behalf when that point is settled right.

That is why Paul said in Ephesians 3:20, "*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*"

Another point to make would be, that God has given us that 'power of choice', and it is in our hands to choose what Satan can and cannot do and to choose what we allow God to do for us.

Whatever we say that Satan shall not do, and really insist on it, from that moment, his power is broken, and he will have to flee. A weak resistance will never bring deliverance. We are to really mean business, and to insist that under no circumstance will we tolerate any disturbance from Satan, and positively refuse to have his oppressions. Then his power is broken, and the victory is won.

The 'Blood of Christ' has placed God's entire power and service at our side to do whatever we may need. We have that power of choice to place our total trust in God or fall to the suggestions of the devil.

That is what James was referring to when he said in his book, James 4:7-8, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*"

That means that we are to refuse to give our consent to be oppressed by Satan, refuse to have any of his disturbances of any kind. When we truly and wholeheartedly mean what we are standing for, God can then rebuke Satan and we will receive our deliverance.

We have that Atonement privilege to ask God for anything that we may need and believe that it is done. Jesus said Mark 11:23, *“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass;”* (or shall continue to believe that it is done) *“he shall have whatsoever he saith.”*

Not only do we have the omnipotent power of God at our side for our service, but there is a great responsibility on our shoulders to place all things in God’s hands to do them for us. In Mark 10:45 (NKJV), Jesus told us, *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

In other words, Jesus didn’t come to be waited on, but to wait on us and minister to our personal needs right here and now. He has given us the privilege of coming to Him with all our requests and He wants us to have all things in this life that would be according to His will.

Just before Jesus went away, He said in Matthew 28:18 & 20, *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”*

It is in our hands to take full advantage of what that power will do for us or to ignore it and get no benefit whatsoever from His power and presence.

Peter gives us some timely advice in 1st Peter 5:8-9, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

Satan wants to rob and torment us, fill our minds with doubt and fear, oppress us physically and rob us of the perfect health that we have been blessed with. He will try to make trouble in the home and family, in the neighborhood or in the workplace. If Satan sees the least chance of making trouble for us, he will do his very best to make things unpleasant for us.

Another place he likes to get in is in our finances and in the workplace. Charging more than is needed, to have some laid aside to use for someone or something just in case it might be needed. Businesses that would fill our mind with everyday transactions and not have much time left for having our minds on God’s Will and Word.

Satan has many hindrances listed in his book and if he doesn’t succeed on one, as he walks about seeking whom he may devour, he will try another one. Satan just loves to annoy and make trouble for us, always working under cover and not wanting to do his work out in the open. He will even use something that we think is working out so nicely in the home or in the family and make us think that it must be a blessing, but deeply, down under, it is certainly not according to God’s Word.

If a family member or someone was disturbing the peace in the home, there are two things that must be settled. The first is that their actions are 100% the work of the devil. If we think that this is the disposition or natural make-up of this person, we will never get victory over them. As long as Satan can work under cover, he will continue to make trouble for us. As the late Pastor said, *“As soon as we see that Satan is behind all our troubles and say, ‘This is altogether from Satan,’ he will begin to pack his goods and get out bag and baggage.”* The very moment we put the blame for our troubles on Satan, and refuse to have his oppressions, our victories will come almost before we are done praying.

Another point to be made, and it is a very important one, is that through the Blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary’s Cross, we are exempted from every power and work of Satan.

This works out the same physically. There may have been a time when Satan has caught us off guard and we may have felt a chill or a sensation in our throat or in our nose. That would be Satan wanting to get in with an oppression. The moment we accept his thoughts or suggestions, that we might be coming down with something, we have opened the door to allow him to come in and oppress us.

However, the very moment the least sign of trouble arises, whether it be in our spiritual life, our bodies, our home, finances or anywhere else, we should resist the devil at once and positively refuse to accept his oppressions. It is our Blood-bought Atonement right and privilege to absolutely refuse to accept any of the devil’s oppressions. When we exercise our Divine rights, God will back up our refusal and will put Satan and all his oppressions to flight.

This is what James meant when he said in James 4:7, *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

If Satan has gotten in and oppressed us in our body and we would ask God to deliver us. Satan comes in with his suggestions, *“You know this is a bad oppression, it may not get well right away, it will take some time.”* By accepting those thoughts that Satan puts in our mind, we have given him our consent to remain in our body to continue to oppress us.

However, if we stand on our Blood-bought Atonement rights, regardless of how long he has oppressed us, and under no circumstance will we tolerate his oppressions another moment, Satan will have to get out at once.

The Blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary’s Cross has given us the right to have God’s own righteousness, wisdom, health, peace in the home and workplace, the salvation of our loved ones, financial blessing and prosperity and all other blessings He has waiting for us. The best part of it is, Satan cannot take any of these things from us without our consent.

We are free moral persons, and have been given the power to choose, which places a tremendous responsibility on us. Will we listen to Satan and accept his thoughts or accept the perfect plan that God has laid out for His people? God has that perfect plan for us that will lead us to perfect peace and happiness forever.



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