Overcoming OBSTACLES Co Dur PRAVERS



We Are Caught Co Pray ...

Improving Our Praying Habits?

(IThes 5:17) ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, (Rom 12:12) ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; -

We Are Caught Co Pray ...

Smproving Our Praying Habits?

(Phili 4:6) 6 Be an xious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

We Are Caught Co Pray ...

Smproving Our Praying Habits?

(I Jn 5:14) 4 Now this is the condence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

We Are Caught Co Pray ...

Improving Our Praying Habits?

JESUS PRAYED Mat 14:22-25; 26:36-46 Luke 5:16; 6:12; 22:44 Mark. 1:35; etc.

We Are Caught Co Pray ...

Smproving Our Praying Habits?

EARLYCHRISTIANS • Prayed constantly – Acts 2:42 • Prayed extensively – Acts 12:5;12; 1 Thes. 1:2,3; 2:13; 3:9-10; 2 Thes. 1:11 **Prayed for those involved in** preaching - 2 Thes. 3:1,2; cf. Mt. 9:37,38; Eph. 6:18-20

Obstacles To Praying As We Should

Do we find PRAYER:

Difficult?
Uncomfortable?
Inconvenient?
Ineffective?
Unnecessary?

Obstacle: NEGLECT

Overlooking?

Disregarding?

Forgetting?

Avoiding?

Ignoring?

Ephesians 5:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Obstacle: NEGLECT

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Are we TOO BUSY to pray as often as we should? Have we allowed material things, and the pursuit of them to crowd out time to pray? Is prayer, and our spiritual life TRULY a priority to us? --- (Mt 6:19-33; Mark

12:29-31; Col. 3:1-2)

Obstacle: NEGLECT

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 Do we need God's help & strength each day?
 (Jam 1:2-16; Dan 6:13; Ps 55:17; 86:3; Eph. 6:18)

Do others need our prayers? - (Jam 5:13-20)

Are we truly thankful?
 — (Phili 4:6; 1 Thes. 5:18)

Obstacle: SIN

Psalm 66:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

Obstacle: SIN

Embarrassment?

Humiliation?

Impenitence?

Guilt?

Shame?

Isaiah 59:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear. ...

Obstacle: SIN



 If we repent & confess our sins, God will forgive us and restore us — 1 Jn 1:9,10; Ps. 32:5; Prov 28:13

Are we willing to forsake our sins and submit to God's will? — Eze. 18:30-32

 Will we receive God's forgiveness, restoration, promise? — Luke 15:11-32; Eph. 4:22,23; Rom. 8:1-4, 12-17; Eph. 1:3-14

Obstacle: WRONG MOTIVES

Envy?

Selfishness?

Carnality?

James 4:3-4 (NKJV

³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Obstacle: WRONG MOTIVES

Envy?

Ignorance?

Carnality?

Selfishness?

Romans 8:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Obstacle: WRONG MOTIVES

Envy?

Selfishness?

Carnality?

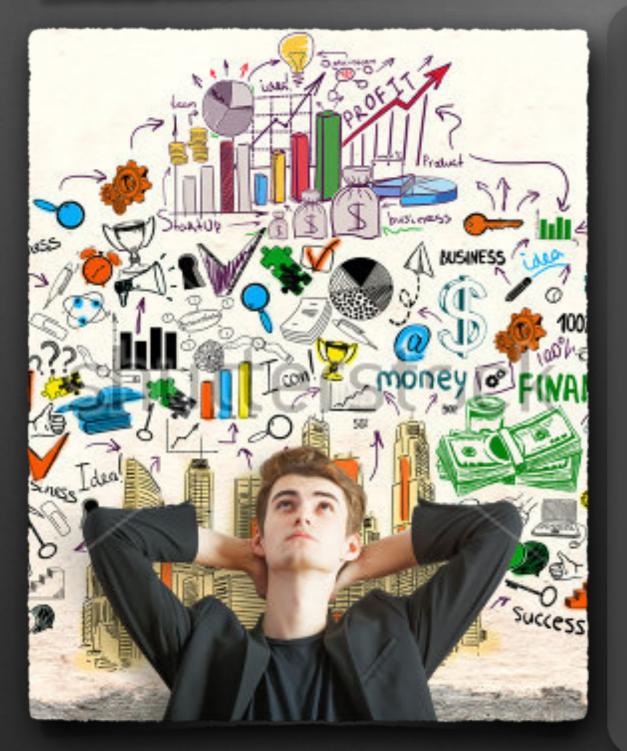
James 1:6-8 (NKJV

Doubt?

Ignorance?

⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Obstacle: WRONG MOTIVES



Our prayers MUST be according to God's will — (in harmony with His commandments, purpose & promises)
 — (1 Jn 5:14,15)

By FAITH - (Trusting in God's instruction, purposes & promises) — (James 1:5,6; Rom 8:26)

 Do we need to become more "spiritually minded?"
 — (Col. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1,2; Jam. 5:16)

Obstacle: RELATIONAL PROBLEMS

Matthew 5:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Obstacle: RELATIONAL PROBLEMS

Matthew 6:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Obstacle: RELATIONAL PROBLEMS

Resentment?

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Jealousy?

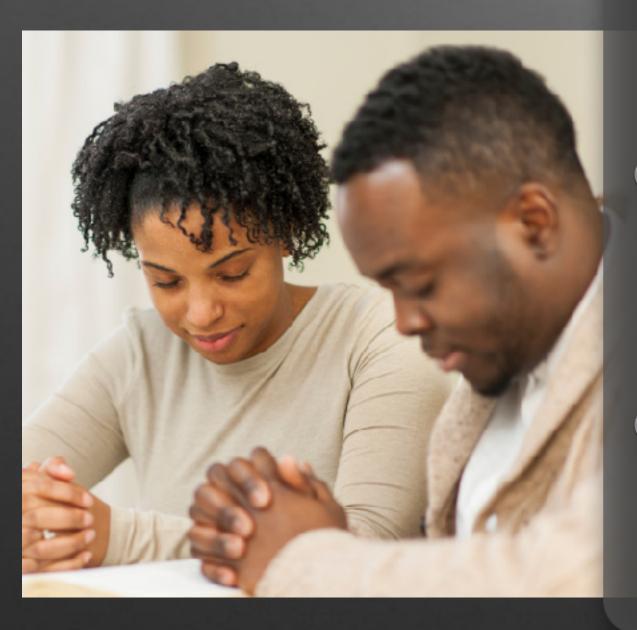
Bitterness?

Broken?

Hatred?

r Peter 3:7 (NKJV) 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Obstacle: RELATIONAL PROBLEMS

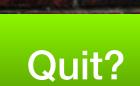


 Seeking to establish / strengthen our relationship with God? — (1 Jn 3:18-24)

 Reconciling with our brother / sister if at all possible — (Mat 18:15-17; Rom 12:17,18; 1 For. 6:7)

 Put God at the CENTER of our marriage & home! — (Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Pet. 3:1-8)

Obstacle: LACK PATIENCE



Resentment?

Hopeless?

Doubt?

Give Up?

Luke 18:1 (NKJV) ¹ Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Obstacle: LACK PATIENCE



Resentment?

Give Up?

Doubt?

Hopeless?

Romans 12:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Obstacle: LACK PATIENCE

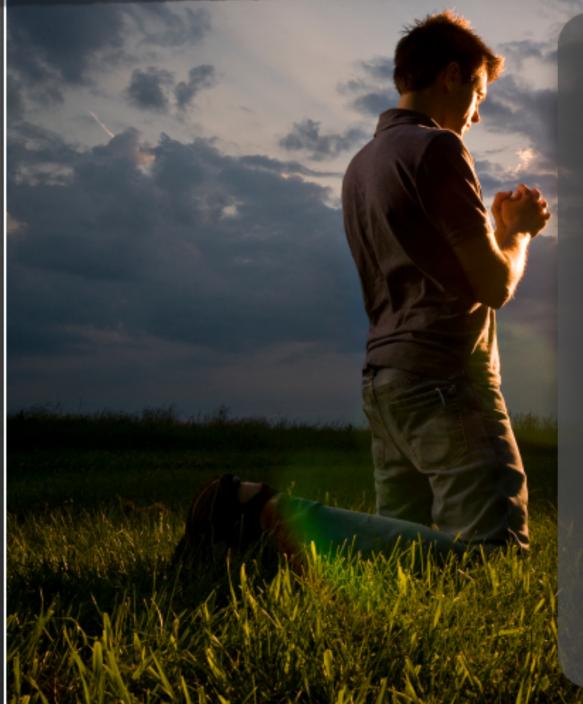


God is not like an unjust judge, He will respond to the prayers of his people. — (Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-8)

 We should be "earnest & vigilant in prayer with thanksgiving" — (Col. 4:2; Phili. 4:6,7; Eph. 6:18)

Learn contentment & be thankful, no matter the circumstance, but NEVER cease to seek God's help, strength & wisdom — TRUST HIM! (James 1:2-7; Romans 8)





- God will forgive us James 5:15; 1 John 1:9
- Draws us closer to God James 4:8; Heb. 10:22-23
- Identifies us with the faithful Acts 6:4
- Gives us strength and comfort James 5:16
- Gives us renewed hope
 Ps. 146:5-9
- God will bless us Heb.
 4:16; Jas. 5:16-18

Benefits of Prayer

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



When The Obstacles To Praying Are Removed

We will find **PRAYER:**

Comfortable?

Convenient?

Effectual?

EASY?

Necessary?

Smproving Our PRAYERS Straying Habits?

Dvercoming

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PSALM 66:13-20 (NKJV) ¹³ I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows, 14 Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble. ¹⁵ I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah ¹⁶ Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.

PSALM 66:13-20 (NKJV) ¹⁷ I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. ¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. ¹⁹ But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. ²⁰ Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!