

What Hinders our Prayer?

By Dan Harding

One of the greatest privileges extended to the Christian is that of praying and knowing that God hears and will answer our prayers. How comforting to know that we can pillow our heads at night, whisper "our Father in heaven" and know that a loving, caring Father above is interested in our problems and He promised to help in times of need. But this being true, why are so many of our prayers hindered and unavailing? What has gone wrong, that we lose the close connection and feel no connection with God in our prayers?

Consider the following:

1. IGNORING GOD WILL HINDER PRAYER

If we turn away from God and ignore all his pleas, God then turns away from our prayers and will not hear them. When we refuse God when He calls us, He will refuse us when we call on Him. (read Proverbs 1: 24 –28)

2. REJECTING THE WORD HINDERS PRAYER

Many people living today openly reject the Word of God, but may one day try to reach God in prayer and fail. The gospel message preached by Peter on Pentecost (Acts 2:36 –41) is either ignored or rejected. The plain, open declaration of the terms of salvation set forth by the apostles of the Lord cannot be rejected because our soul's eternal welfare rests on the Word of God. If we place our soul's eternal welfare on the doctrines of men our prayers are hindered and will not be answered by God.

3. LACK OF FAITH HINDERS PRAYER

Most of our prayers are not answered because we lack faith. And many times we ask without confidently expecting to receive. It is the prayer of faith that is answered. Our prayers are hindered when we are plagued with doubts and misgivings.

4. UNFORGIVING SPIRIT HINDERS PRAYER

How often do we feel unforgiving even after we have prayed for forgiveness? What is the hindrance? Many times it stems from an unforgiving attitude. If we are unwilling to forgive, then we are not forgiven by God. When we show forgiveness, then our prayers for forgiveness will be granted.

5. WRONG MARITAL RELATIONS WILL HINDER PRAYER

If there is not the right relationship between husband and wife, they will not be able to enjoy the effectual prayers they should. There is added strength in combined prayer where two are truly united. Two who are married to one another and to the Lord can have a strong ally for overcoming all problems. But they must first have the right relationship with God and one another.

All these hindrances can be removed. There is simply and forcefully a statement in (1 John 1:9) to help us to be more effective in our prayers to God.

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Morning 09:00
Bible Study

Sunday Morning 10:00
Worship Assembly

Sunday Evening 18:30
Worship Assembly

Wednesday Ladies 10:00
Class

Wednesday Evening 19:00
Bible Study

Pot Luck

Lunch

Thank you to all who supported this event last week. It was a resounding success with great food and wonderful fellowship.

A special thank you to those who assisted with preparing the venue and tidying up after the lunch.

Prayer Requests

Basil Baisley, Louise Crossley and Milly Crossley. Traveling mercies for Bill Elliott as he travels to the USA. Pat Watson who recently lost his brother.

Weekly Calendar of Events

TUESDAY

Weekly singing practice at Adriaan & Gaby Le Roux's house at 19:00.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Bible Class to resume after the school holidays on Wednesday 19th July.

Midweek Bible Study at 19:00. To be presented by Adriaan Le Roux.

FRIDAY

Youth at 19:00—21:00 @ the Building

Mark your Calendars

All members are invited to join in (or come and support) **Paintball** games which have been organized for **Saturday 22nd July**. More details to follow shortly.

Ladies Day

Plans and arrangements are well underway for Ladies Day which will take place on Saturday 12th August. Invitations for family and friends will be distributed shortly.

Benevolence

Please continue to support us in making up much needed food hampers for those in need. For next week please provide: **BAKED BEANS/SWEET CORN AND COFFEE 100GR.**

SABC Correspondence Courses

SABC (Benoni) are now offering distance learning (correspondence) programmes, which are recognized by UNISA. Individual subjects or full diploma courses are on offer. Please collect a form from the foyer if you are interested.

Visitors

Our visitors are very special to us and we thank you for coming to worship with us. We also offer private Bible classes at your convenience and invite you to avail yourself of this opportunity.

CONGREGATIONAL FEEDBACK MEETING

The first Congregational Feedback Meeting was well attended and a very positive response was received. It was agreed that these sessions would be held every 12 weeks.

Attendance Figures

Sunday AM Worship	96
Sunday PM Worship	64
Wednesday Bible Study	47

Birthdays: Sher Brandstetter on 3rd July, Basil Baisley and Jean Goldswain on 4th July, Chris Martin on 5th and Pearl Nyemba, Luawayne Baisley, Braam Le Roux on 7th July and Claude Ekron on 8th July.

Wedding Anniversaries: Alvin & Deidre Best on 5th July.

Serving Rosters

TODAY 2nd July

SINGING:	AM R. Share	PM R. Share
OPENING PRAYER:	AM H. Granger	PM A. Le Roux
LORD'S TABLE:	AM Justin Le R	PM M. Baisley
SCRIPTURE READING:	AM N. Nyemba	PM M. Baisley
CLOSING PRAYER:	AM N. Lentz	PM B. Le Roux
FLOWERS:	Gaby Le Roux	
PREACHING:	AM Dan Harding	
	PM Johan Smulders	

AM Scripture Reading: PSALMS 27: 4

Sermon topic: "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you"

Next Week 9th July

SINGING:	AM M. Baisley	PM M. Baisley
OPENING PRAYER:	AM N. Lentz	PM B. Le Roux
LORD'S TABLE:	AM R. Le Roux	PM A. Le Roux
SCRIPTURE READING:	AM B. Le Roux	PM G. Baisley
CLOSING PRAYER:	AM R. Schultz	PM Justin Le R
FLOWERS:	Louise Crossley	
PREACHING:	AM Quintin Le Roux	
	PM Basil Baisley	

Fellowship Tea

Our monthly evening fellowship tea will take place this evening after service. Ladies on duty are Sandra, Erika, Brenda and Vanessa.

Bulletin Contributions

All news items and inserts for the bulletin are to be forwarded to Pamela Granger on Cell: 082 898 8083 or e-mail: hpls.granger@absamail.co.za by 16:00 on a Friday for inclusion.