THINGS THAT HINDER PRAYER

(Luke 18:9-14)

- 1. PRIDE, SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, DISPARAGING OTHERS

 (Luke 18:9 14) "Two men went up to the temple to pray ...

 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other ..."
- 2. LACK OF BENEVOLENCE (Proverbs 21:13) "Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard."
- 3. WILLFUL SIN / DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD

 (Isaiah 59:1-2) "... But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
 and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."

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

 (Proverbs 15:29 and 28:9; 1 Peter 3:12)
- 4. **DOUBT** (James 1:5-8) "... But let him ask in faith, with no doubting ... "
- 5. FAILURE TO ASK (James 4:2) " ... Yet you do not have because you do not ask ... "
- 6. SELFISHNESS (James 4:3) "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasure."
- 7. UNFORGIVING ATTITUDE (Matthew 6:14-15) "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive ... " (also v12)
- 8. DO NOTHING (Colossians 4:2) "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same ..."

 (Matthew 26:41) "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. ..."
- 9. FAMILY RELATIONSHIP (1 Peter 3:7) "... that your prayers may not be hindered."
- 10. LACK OF PERSISTENCE (Luke 11:5-8; Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17)
- 11. TO BE SEEN BY OTHERS / VAIN REPETITIONS (Matthew 6:5 7)
- CLOSE God will answer, and the answer may be: "Yes" "No" "Wait" "Here's something better" "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:9) "I'll send an angel to strengthen you" (Hebrews 1:14)

Prayer is not a substitute for obedience.