

Lesson #11: Locks of Prayer

"Surely God will not listen to an empty cry." Job 35:13.

10 principles that block prayer from succeeding. These aren't all that can block prayer but these are some of the main reasons your prayer life is not more successful.

Praying without knowing God through Jesus.

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6.

Praying from an unrepentant heart.

*"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."
Psalm 66:18.*

Praying for show.

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full." Matthew. 6:5.

Praying repetitive, empty words. This goes back to Lesson #5.

"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matt. 6:7-8.

Prayers not prayed.

*"You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God."
James 4.2.*

Praying with a lustful heart.

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3.

Praying while mistreating your spouse.

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." 1 Peter 3:7.

Praying while ignoring the poor.

*“Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.”
Proverbs 21:13.*

Praying with bitterness in your heart towards someone.

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” Mark 11:25-26.

Praying with a faithless heart.

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”
Hebrews 11:6.*

Sample Prayer:

Lord, I ask You to reveal to me anything that is hindering my prayer life and help me to get rid of it. If there is any ego, any selfishness in me. Any bitterness or lack of faith in You that is blocking me from You. Forgive me for my lack of trust and give me a clean heart. I forgive those who have wronged me as You have forgiven me. I thank You for your patience and kindness. I want to be as close to You as possible. Please help me to come closer to You. Open up my heart to hear You. In Jesus' name, Amen.