

# Hinderances to Answered Prayer

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**Introduction:** The scriptures teach that there are a number of different attitudes that can obstruct answers to the prayers we offer.

I) The text reveals that selfishness voids our prayer requests. God is under no obligation to hear selfish prayers - *Mark 10:35-40*.

II) Unconfessed and unforsaken sin in the heart hinders prayer.

A) *Psalms 66:18*.

B) *Isaiah 59:1-2*.

C) *Jeremiah 5:25*.

III) Giving God second place hinders prayer - *Ezekiel 14:3*.

IV) The mistreatment of a brother or sister can hinder prayer - *Matthew 5:23-24*.

V) The harboring of a grudge will deprive you of forgiveness - *Mark 11:25-26*.

**Conclusion:** Perhaps the greatest hindrances to prayer are not those that are present while praying, but rather those that keep us from even attempting to pray.. The author of the text also said, "You do not have because you do not ask" *James 4:2*. Our sinful nature does not encourage us to pray. The Devil will do all that he can to prevent us from praying. The pressures of a competitive world will crowd out our prayer and prevent us from praying as we permit them to do so. God eagerly invites us to pray.