

STOP THAT PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

A. 1st Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer is good and should be encouraged.

B. John 15:7; James 5:16; 1st John 5:14-15

The conditions for answered prayer are manifest. We must be righteous, abiding in the Lord's will. And, we must ask according to that will.

I. STOP THAT PRAYER IF YOU'RE CONTINUING IN SIN

A. Proverbs 15:29; 28:9

God ignores and is offended with prayers offered by those who persist in sin.

B. Isaiah 59:1-2

This is not a matter of divine ability, but of His sovereign will.

II. STOP THAT PRAYER IF YOU'RE WITHHOLDING FORGIVENESS FROM THE PENITENT

A. Matthew 6:9-15

If we pray God's forgiveness for ourselves, then we must extend that forgiveness to others and do so in prayer.

B. Luke 17:3-4

Of course, there is a condition upon which forgiveness can happen man-to-man, just as there is a condition for forgiveness God-to-man.

C. James 2:13

Mercy is for the merciful.

III. STOP THAT PRAYER IF IT IS INSINCERE

A. Matthew 6:5-6

The prayer by which one intends to bring honor to himself from other men will gain nothing more than honor from other men.

B. Luke 18:9-14

These prayers bring no justification.

IV. STOP THAT PRAYER IF YOU'RE NOT HONORING YOUR WIFE

A. 1st Peter 3:7, 12

Prayers are hindered when understanding and honor are lacking in marriage.

B. Ephesians 5:22-33

Marriage is meant to reflect the love between Christ and the church.

V. STOP THAT PRAYER IF YOU DOUBT GOD CAN FULFILL YOUR REQUEST

A. James 1:5-8

It is inconsistent to both ask of God in prayer and doubt He can do what is asked.

B. Mark 11:24

Faith must undergird every request made to God.

VI. STOP THAT PRAYER IF YOU'RE ASKING FOR WORLDLY THINGS

A. James 4:3-4

Prayer is not an avenue to achieving prosperity or pleasure, but fellowship with the Almighty.

B. James 1:17

God is not a genie to grant our wishes, but the giver of **good** gifts. Let's not turn prayer into frivolity.

VII. STOP THAT PRAYER IF YOU'RE BEING STINGY

A. 1st John 3:17-22

To expect God to grant our requests while withholding the most basic necessities from the indigent is inexcusable.

B. Proverbs 21:13

God ignores those who ignore the needy.

VIII. STOP THAT PRAYER UNTIL REPENTANCE IS COMPLETE

A. Joshua 7:4-13

God did not desire Joshua's prayers when Israel suffered defeat at Ai because Achan had taken of the accursed thing and brought sin into the camp. That sin had to be rooted out first.

B. Matthew 5:23-24

Worship can wait until repentance is complete.

IX. STOP THAT PRAYER IF YOU THINK IT'S ALL YOU NEED TO BE SAVED

A. Acts 9:1-18

Saul was convicted Jesus is Lord and he was praying, but he needed to be baptized.

B. Acts 10:4, 30-32; 11:13-14; 10:48

Cornelius's prayers, as a righteous Gentile before the gospel came to the whole world, were heard by God, but he still needed to hear words to be saved and he had to answer the command to be baptized.