

## HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

Michael Pickford

God wants us communicating with Him through prayer (1 Ths 5:17). The devil wants to obstruct this worshipful communication. Here are seven things that can hinder our prayers....

1. **Doubting:** Jms 1:6-8; Mtt 21:20-22
2. **Praying against God's will:** 1 Jn 5:14-17
3. **Unrighteous living:** Jms 5:16; 1 Pt 3:11-12
4. **Selfish desires:** Jms 4:3
5. **Marital Turbulance:** 1 Pt 3:7
6. **Pride (Self Righteousness):** Lk 18:9-14
7. **Desiring The Praise of Men:** Mtt 6:5-8

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

### COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00



- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry

Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

Volume 13, Number 07

February 12, 2017

### SPIRITUAL MURDER

Michael Pickford

It's always tragic when someone is physically murdered. We often hear about it on the news. What we don't hear on the TV is the greater tragedy of someone being murdered spiritually. Satan seeks to murder us all spiritually. Here's how he succeeds with many...

**Starved to Death.** It is tragic when someone is starving to death physically. Spiritual starvation is worse. Satan has managed to edge his way into folk's schedules in such a way as to prevent them from feeding daily from the word of God. Jesus said "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). The Bible presents every word that God has given to us. We cannot go on living spiritually without a daily diet from it. Those in Berea studied the word "Daily" (Acts 17:11), so must we!

**Scared to Death.** Our "Adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). The Lion is referred to as the king of the jungle. This is interesting since he really isn't the fastest or the strongest. What gives him his edge is his ferocious roar. He roars just before attacking, scaring his intended prey. While frightened, the prey is vulnerable and the lion takes advantage. Spiritually, Satan roars in many ways, scaring Christians to their spiritual demise. Some are scared out of their service to the Lord with threats from their government. Because of their faith in Jesus they risk imprisonment or even execution. It was in this context that the Lord said "Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). Some are scared away from the Lord by criticism or ostracism from their friends, family or co-workers. Don't be scared to death!

**Smothered to Death.** Some are choked out by the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches (Matthew 13:22). They began with zealous service to the Lord; but their jobs, their entertainment, their activities, their sports, their children's activities became so important and burdensome that serving the Lord took a back seat. Daily family bible study and prayer were replaced with games and practices, late hours at the office, late nights with sports and video games, etc. Attending services, visiting the sick and other responsibilities are also hindered or eliminated. They've been smothered to death. -Don't let Satan murder you!

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

# Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

## This Week's Theme: Learning To Pray

Weekly Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 2:1-2

**Introduction:** John the Baptist had taught his disciples how to pray, and Jesus' disciples wanted Him to teach them to pray (Lk 11:1). Prayer is a tremendous service we can do in service to the Lord, both for ourselves and for others. This week, let's consider some scriptural truths about prayer so that we too may learn how to pray more effectively.

**Monday: We have some amazing biblical examples of prayer in the Bible.** Both in the Old and New Testaments, we can learn about the power of prayer from men and women of faith who prayed!

1. Judges 16:23-31. Did God give Samson strength in answer to a prayer? Should we pray for strength to face our enemies?
2. 1 Sam. 1:8-28. Did God grant Hannah's request? What did Hannah do as she prayed?
3. 2 Kings 20:1-6. Why did Hezekiah pray? What was the result of his prayer? What if hadn't prayed? Does prayer move God to act on our behalf?

**Tuesday: Prayer is worship through Christ.**

Through prayer, we voice our adoration to God and realize our dependence upon Him.

1. Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:15; 1 Jn 5:14-15; 1 Pt 3:12. Is prayer found listed with others acts of worship, such as singing and the Lord's supper? Is the "We" in 1 Jn. 5:14 referring to Christians, non-Christians, or both (see vs 13)? Who then is promised that God hears their prayers?

**Wednesday: We have been given specific details as to how we should pray.** Lk 11:5-8; Lk 18:1-8; 1 Ths 5:17; Col 4:2; Jn 14:13-14; Eph 5:20.

1. What principle of prayer is emphasized in the Lord's two parables (Lk 11 & Lk. 18)? What is meant by "Pray without ceasing"? (See Dan 6:10; Lk 5:16). What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?

**Thursday: The Bible gives us four primary components to prayer.** If we struggle for what to pray about, realizing these four components of prayer assist us in finding an abundance of proper words. 1 Tim 2:1-2; Lk 11:2-4; Php 4:6-7; 1 Pt 5:6-7.

1. Name and define the four components of prayer from 1 Tim. 2:1-2.

2. How many of these components can you identify in the model prayer given in Lk 11:5-8 and Mtt 6:9-13?
3. How many can you find in Php 4:6-7.
4. Regardless of God's answer to our prayer, what are some positive and immediate results of praying?

**Friday: There are many things that can hinder our prayers.**

Jms 1:6-8; Mtt 21:20-22; 1 Jn 5:14; Jms 5:15-16; 1 Pt 3:11-12; Jms 4:3; Lk 18:9-14; 1 Pt 3:7; Mtt 6:5-8. From these passages, list seven things that can hinder our prayers, and think about how they can be avoided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell  
Reading: Galatians 4:16-20
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Eli Todd

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Tony Jenkins

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

**Thank You For Serving!**

### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;  
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

**Obey Today!**

**Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!**