

## THROW OFF HINDRANCES

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic  
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Prayer is the amazing direct access God has provided for us during our trying times. For those who love Him: "All things work together for good for those who love God & are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28). At times, if we have no idea what to pray for, God knows & understands what we need. However, disobedience causes God to withhold our request, so we should throw off hindrances because God is waiting for our obedience: "No good thing will He withhold those who walk uprightly" (Ps.84:11).

### A. Reasons when God says no to our prayers:

#### 1. When we do not ask

God always answers our prayers. God knows our needs before we even ask. Therefore, we should pray at all times.

#### 2. When we pray amiss

A selfish purpose in prayer robs prayer power. When we ask with wrong motives, we may spend what we get on our pleasures (Jas.4:3). Therefore, we ask for things for the glory of God.

### B. Hindrances we have to Throw Off

#### 1. Idols

An idol is anything that takes the place of God, and becomes the supreme object of our affection. The Lord, our God is a jealous God (Ex.20:3-6). There are various idols: self (reputation), family, business, careers, and possessions. Giving up idols will avoid blocking access to Him.

#### 2. Stinginess and Selfishness

God cares about the poor, calls us to care, to listen, and to respond to them. Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered (Prov.21:13). Let us use the resources entrusted to us, to our own lives, and to the poor people around us.

### C. What is Tithing?

Tithing is giving 10% of our income to God by giving to our local church and community (storehouse). Those who do not pay tithes and offerings rob God, but those who do pay them are greatly blessed (Mal.3-10).

### D. Truths about Tithing

#### 1. Tithing is an expectation as a Christian.

One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grains from the fields or fruits from the trees, belong to the Lord and must be set apart as holy (Lev.27:30).

#### 2. We are to tithe with the right heart motivation.

Each of us should give what we have decided in our heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2Cor.9:6-8).

#### 3. Motives for Giving: Wrong Motives

1. to gain recognition
3. to earn God's reward
2. to appease God
4. to fulfill an obligation

#### 4. Motives for Giving: Right Motives

1. to give thanks out of gratitude for what God has done for us
2. to express love for God that goes beyond gratitude
3. to obey God

### CONCLUSION:

To answer prayers, God says "Yes", and we receive what we ask for. God says "No", and we have to accept it and move on. Or, God says "Not Yet", and we learn to be patient and wait. With regard to hindrances, God may refuse to acknowledge our prayer to get us back into line with His will and purpose.

### REFLECTION:

What hindrances must you throw off that hinder the prayer life that God desires?

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