Hindrances to Prayer

Tony Mauck · Psalm 66

INTRODUCTION

- I think we almost treat prayer like it's a given in the lives of Christians.
- If I regard wickedness in my heart, then the Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard.
- The number is not as important as the connection with God.

1 Not Convinced That Prayer Changes Anything

James 1:5–8; James 5:16

- I think one of the reasons why folks don't pray is that we're not really convinced that it changes anything.
- The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
- The New Testament clearly says that things will result from prayer that otherwise would not have resulted unless we pray.
- We need to make requests about things in our lives that trouble us and concern us, even if the answer for that particular thing is negatory.
- We may not get things as we want them. But prayer does indeed change things.

2 Prayer Is a Key to Godliness and Transformation

Psalm 66

- Worldliness is being focused on the world. Godliness is being focused on God.
- A thing that prayer absolutely accomplishes is makes you godly. It makes you focused on God and not on this world.
- It humbles you as you recognize there is someone greater than yourself that you need.
- Instead, they ask what? Lord, teach us to pray. Probably need to learn to pray before you need to learn to preach.
- It's more than about what we get from prayer, it's how prayer changes us. We need to pray to mold ourselves into the likeness of Jesus.

3 Thinking Private Prayer Should Be Like Public Prayer

Romans 8; Matthew 6:13; Luke 22:40

- I think this is perhaps the greatest hindrance. We think private prayer should be like public prayer.
- Prayer is simply a humble appeal to God.
- Perhaps there should always be a little bit of a counting of what's good in our lives when we're appealing to God about what isn't.
- Just going to the throne of God and saying, I'm having a rough time here. I need your help.

- Pray that you may not enter into temptation.
- If we're struggling with a particular sin and shortcoming in our lives, it's because we've allowed prayer to not become central in our lives like it needs to be.

THE CHALLENGE

But you must first come to Him on His terms to have such wonderful access. And then, once you have it, enjoy each day the privilege of being able to communicate so intimately with a perfect and holy God.

MY NOTES