**PRAYER BARRIERS**

**Text: Isaiah 59:1-2**

* Isa 59:1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.
* Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden [His] face from you, So that He will not hear.

**Intro:**

* In the Rulers of the kingdom, we’ve learnt that prayer is giving God the authority to interfere with earthly affairs.
* Things we should be praying for?
* Steps to take in prayer.
* Prayer barriers.

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO KNOW THE BARRIERS IN PRAYER AND GET RID OF THEM.

**I. INIQUITY-V 2**

* Perversity or moral evil
* Lawlessness or an offense against the law
* Is a secret sin, not in the sense that you go off somewhere to commit it but in the sense that it is something you cannot see, such as jealousy.
* Psalm 66:1 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear
* Ex. You smile at someone but deep in your heart, you wish their downfall.
* You hug somebody in church but the truth is you despise them.
* Bitterness-means you’re holding something against someone and not releasing that person through forgiveness.
* We should reserve our hatred for the devil alone.

**II. SIN-V 2**

* Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
* Hebrews 3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
* Hebrews 3:15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

**III. DOUBT**

* James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him
* James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
* James 1:7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
* Mat 9:29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you";
* Mar 6:5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.
* Mark 6:6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.
* Mar 2:4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.
* Mar 2:5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven.“

**IV. FEAR**

* Fear is faith in what could wrong rather than faith in what could go right.
* Fear is believing what the devil is telling you and what other people are telling you

rather than what God is saying to you.

* 1John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
* 1Jo 4:19 We love because He first loved us.
* Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
* Rom 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
* Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**V. GUILT**

* Guilt is related to the fear of not being forgiven.
* Living in a constant sense of being condemned by God.
* Rom 8:1 [There is] therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
* Isa 43:25 "I, [even] I, [am] He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.
* Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."
* God has chosen to forget them, He doesn’t want you to remind Him about them either.

**VI. INFERIORITY FEELING**

* Some people are hindered in prayer because they don’t believe they are worthy enough to receive an answer.
* You cannot pray effectively if you are ashamed of yourself and do not consider worthy to receive what you are asking God for.
* A low self esteem of yourself is not from God as you are valuable to Him.
* Prayer is not trying to get God to do something for you by making Him fell sorry for you.
* It is coming to Him knowing that you not only deserve what you ask because of the righteousness of Christ,
* but you also have a right to it because it is based on His word.
* Ex. Prodigal who decided to come back as a servant
* You cannot be who you are if you don’t know who you are, God’s own child.
* He came as a servant but treated as a child.

**VII. WRONG MOTIVES**

* James 4:2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.
* James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
* Are you asking God for something so you can promote your own ego or for other selfish purposes?
* Or are you asking God to fulfil His Word so that His kingdom can come on the earth?
* Phil 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

**VIII. UNFORGIVENESS**

* Mar 11:25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.“
* Unforgiveness does not reflect the character of God.
* It demonstrates ingratitude for the vast forgiveness God has extended to you.
* Illustration: Matthew 18

**IX. BROKEN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

* 1Pe 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and
* treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs
* with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.
* I Pet 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.
* 1Pe 3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.
* Psalm 103:8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
* Psalm 103:9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever;
* Psalm 103:10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

**X. IDOLS**

* Eze 14:3 "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?
* An idol is anything we give higher priority than God.
* Seek the Kingdom of God first
* First command is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind, all our strength.
* We need to examine what is most important to us, what our priorities are, and how are we spending our time?

**XI. STINGINESS**

* Pro 21:13 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.
* Pro 11:25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.
* Pro 22:9 A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.
* Pro 11:24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

**CHALLENGE:**

* Are you now aware of your own hindrances to answered prayer?
* Are you willing to lay them aside or get rid of them?

**CONCLUSION:**

* ***Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.***