

"What hinders prayer?" Part 1

Text: Deuteronomy 1:41-46

The first thing the Bible shows us will hinder our prayers is disobedience to the commands of God. Previous to the passage we read, God has commanded the children of Israel to go and conquer the Promised Land. So they sent in 12 spies to get a lay of the land. Ten of them came back and said that the people were giants, the cities walled, and concluded that it could not be conquered no matter what God said. Joshua and Caleb came back and gave a report of how wonderful the land was and that if God said to conquer it then we can conquer it!

The children of Israel believed the 10 over the 2 and refused to go up and conquer the Promised Land. Despite God assuring them that He would fight for them, the people refused to go! God then records that because of their disobedience everyone in that "evil generation" would not get to see the Promised Land except Caleb and Joshua!

Israel then reacted without thinking and went up to fight the Amorites and were severely defeated. They came back confessing their sin of disobedience and begging God's forgiveness. Sadly, the Bible records in verse 45 that "and ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you."

Just like God would not hear their prayers because they were disobedient to His clear commands, God will not hear our prayers when we are clearly disobeying his commands written in the Scriptures

Lord, may we realize that disobedience does not just have its physical affects, but it also has its spiritual affect. Help us to do all we can to obey you so that there will not be any hindrances to You being able to answer our prayers!