

**Prayer Obstacles**  
**Prayer Adventure – Part 3**  
Life Church St. Louis – January 27, 2019  
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker  
Message Videos – [www.lcstl.org/messages](http://www.lcstl.org/messages)

*John 16:24 (ESV) Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

*1 John 5:14-15 (ESV) And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*

**1. Unconfessed \_\_\_\_\_**

**1A. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ sin**

*Psalms 66:18 (ESV) If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.*

**1B. Sin damages your relationship with \_\_\_\_\_**

*Isaiah 59:2 (ESV) but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

**2. Flawed relationships with \_\_\_\_\_**

**2A. \_\_\_\_\_ brings God's judgement**

*Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV) Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.*

*Matthew 18:34-35 (ESV) And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."*

**2B. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_ hinders prayer**

*1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

**3. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_**

**3A. Believe in God's \_\_\_\_\_**

*Matthew 17:19-20 (ESV) Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*

**3B. Ask without \_\_\_\_\_**

*James 1:6-7 (ESV) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*

**Action Plan for This Week**

Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading & prayer.  
 Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat  Sun

Invite a friend to the service next Sunday.

How will I obey God's Word this week? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Prayer Obstacles Study Guide

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Intro. What should be our goal in prayer according to John 16:24?

What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name (John 16:24)?

How can we know whether our prayer request is according to God's will (1 John 5:14-15)?

1A. What do you think is the meaning of cherishing sin in your heart (Psalm 66:18)? Give some examples.

1B. In what ways does sin damage your relationship with God (Isaiah 59:2)?

1C. Why does unconfessed sin result in God not listening to our prayers?

1D. What positive practices can guard against the prayer obstacle of unconfessed sin?

2A. Why do we as humans tend to want to limit our forgiveness of others (Matthew 18:21-22)?

2B. How does unforgiveness impact our relationship with God (Matthew 18:34-35, Matthew 6:15)?

2C. Why would lack of love in a marriage relationship hinder prayer (1 Peter 3:7)?

2D. Is it possible to forgive without limit and still protect oneself from repetitive harm? Why or why not?

3A. Which is harder to believe? That God can answer a particular request or that God will answer a particular request? Why?

3B. How can faith be such a powerful force (Matthew 17:19-20)?

3C. Why did the disciples have such little faith (Matthew 17:19-20)?

3D. In what ways does doubt cause prayers not to be answered (James 1:6-7)?

3E. How can a believer grow in faith and overcome doubt?

3F. What other obstacle to answered prayer is described in (James 4:3)?