

Three Barriers to Answered Prayer

By Allen Webster (I Timothy 2:8)

1: An Unholy Lifestyle

2: Anger

3: Doubt *(continued from last week)*

God is no more a respecter of places than of persons (John 4:23).

- ◇ Prayer can be public.
- ◇ Prayer can be domestic, by which we mean the prayer that is offered in the family home.
- ◇ Prayer can be private. “When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father” (Matthew 6:6). One said, “Set up your closet for battle, retire into a battle to meditate, and choose a frontier garrison to be wise in.”
- ◇ Prayer can be personal—ejaculatory, a dart sent up to God. Nehemiah was the king’s cup-bearer, and while he was working with the king, he quickly prayed (Nehemiah 2:4).

Prayer is available everywhere, because the need for prayer is everywhere.

We must not doubt God’s power. The Bible assures us that we need not doubt. “Great is our Lord, and mighty in power” (Psalms 147:5). He is omnipotent (Genesis 18:14; Matthew 19:26). The power that created the universe is the power that responds to prayer (Genesis 1:1). He spoke a universe into existence (Psalms 33:6-9). His power is far beyond our comprehension (cf. Job 37:5). James Dobson wrote:

I am . . . awestruck by the unbelievable dimensions of God’s creation. How does one grasp the meaning of a visible universe that is at least 30 billion light years across and composed of perhaps 100 billion galaxies, each containing hundreds of billions of stars? It is breathtaking to consider what exists in the silent sky. One object relatively near us, a star named Epsilon, is larger than the orbit of the planet Pluto in our solar system. If it were hollow, it could contain more than 2.3 billion of our suns.

God made man “in His own image” (Genesis 1:26-27). He is Spirit (John 4:24); He made us eternal spirits (cf. Hebrews 12:9) and fused us into our physical bodies (2 Corinthians 4:16, 18). When our spirit leaves our body, death transpires (James 2:26). By what metaphysical process is the spirit initially placed into the body? Why does the spirit not “seep” out of the body if we get cut? Who has the answer to such questions? God does.

We must not doubt God’s care. Christians are not only to “believe that He is,” but that “He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). The Bible teaches that we can entrust our future to God because He loves us and wants the best for us (Isaiah 40:31). He gives as much attention to the insignificant as to the great (Isaiah 40:29-30).

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Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Harold Reynolds had a good week. His next treatment is January 2.
- ◆ So many have had respiratory/virus/stomach problems—Lana Cockrum, Mary Lou Snelson, Titus Smith family, David Stevens, Barbara Luna, Kay Young, Nichole Lane, and probably others.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Barbara White, Don Luna, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Rene Blackburn.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Harold Reynolds, Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins, Fred Strain.
- ◆ Those in area nursing homes.

Kids
sing up
front
every
Sunday.
Join us.



“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Ps 46:10

Stop talking
Switch off your phone
Stop commenting
Listen
Stop arguing
Stop questioning
Stop moaning

Stop doubting
Be sure
Have faith
No second opinion

God is Almighty
God is in control
God is love
God is King
God is my hope, rock,
fortress
God is ever-present, a
help in times of
trouble.
God is my Father
God is my shepherd-
He will lead me,
nourish me, protect
me & restore me.

A New Year’s Resolution to Remember

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
1-4	Aleta Collins	1-1	Spencer and Sandra Wade
1-7	Bill Collins	1-10	Matt and Rose Burton
1-8	Robert Stover	Birthdays	
1-9	Bonnie Luna	1-24	Frances McGinnis
1-10	Marty Jones	1-25	Melinda Walrath
1-11	Rose Burton	1-25	Jean Blisard
1-11	Baylee Lynne	1-28	Sangchun Moyers
1-12	Sue Hambelton	1-29	Sarah Hossman
1-19	Brooke Hambelton	1-30	Waylon Strong

Tiffany will be serving spaghetti and chicken alfredo, green beans, French bread, and dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper before classes.

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One little boy popped his head into his parent's room one night and asked, "Hey mom and dad, do either of you need anything?" They looked at each other a little bewildered, and responded, "No, son, why?" He replied, "I was just checking because I was about to say my prayers." (4) A child-like faith in the power of prayer leads to answered prayer.

If we pray with unholy hands, anger, or doubt, we might as well neglect prayer, for such prayers are ineffective. Let us approach God in prayer with faith and humility.

January Worship Assignments

	<u>Welcome & Prayer</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Shepherd's Prayer</u>
Today	Jim Kirkland	Larry Butler	David Stevens
1-7	Dylan Abraham	Don Reynolds	Don Luna
1-14	Titus Smith	Vance Hambelton	John Abraham
1-21	Spencer Wade	Brian Hambelton	Mark Lane
1-28	David Stevens	Andrew Hambelton	David Stevens

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: John and Melinda Abraham

The Family News

December 31, 2023

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655
www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service Topic: *Jesus of Nazareth*

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#47, *Holy, Holy, Holy*; #610, *I Love My Savior, Too*

#382, *Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?* Communion Service

#222, *There's Something About That Name*

Scripture Reading by Howard Wade, Matt. 1:19-23

Sermon and Invitation

#947, *Jesus Is Tenderly Calling*

#738, *Take the Name of Jesus with You*

Shepherd's Prayer

Offering baskets are at the back.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
 Don Luna 417-712-1945
 David Stevens 417-679-4700
 John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
 Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
 James Langston 870-315-4355
 Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Preacher

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us