

## When Prayer Is Not Enough

Text: Joshua 7:6-10

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Prayer is an essential part of every Christian's life.
2. Prayer is powerful.
3. However, there are times when powerful prayer can become powerless pleading.
4. The Christian must understand when prayer is not enough.

### I. PENITENCE BEFORE PRAYER

- A. The way a person lives influences his or her prayer life.
- B. Refusing to hear God's law turns prayer into an abomination (Proverbs 28:9).
- C. Selfishness and greed can cause one's prayers to go unanswered (James 4:2-3).
- D. Practicing iniquity will cause the Lord to refuse one's prayers (Luke 13:23-27; Psalm 66:18).
- E. Trouble in the home can cause prayers to be hindered (1 Peter 3:7).
- F. Trouble among brethren can cause prayers to be hindered (Matthew 5:23-24).
- G. Failing to help those in need will hinder one's prayers (Proverbs 21:13).
- H. Bloodshed will keep God from hearing one's prayers (Isaiah 1:15-20).
- I. A lack of faith will hinder one's prayers (Matthew 21:22; James 1:5-8).
- J. Because sin separates man from God, there must be penitence before prayer!

### II. PRACTICE AFTER PRAYER

- A. As important as prayer is, it must be followed by action – one must practice obedience.
- B. Prayer cannot substitute for Gospel obedience in salvation (Acts 9:11; 22:16).
- C. Prayer cannot substitute for church discipline (Joshua 7:10-12; Matthew 18:17-20).
- D. Prayer cannot substitute for opposition to moral evil (Matthew 14:3-4).
- E. Prayer cannot substitute for opposition to doctrinal error (Galatians 2:11).
- F. Prayer cannot substitute for genuine repentance (1 John 5:14-17)
- G. Prayer cannot substitute for genuine forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15).
- H. Prayer cannot substitute for helping those who are in need (James 2:15-17).
- I. Prayer cannot substitute for faithful obedience:
  1. Concerning food (Matthew 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)
  2. Concerning opportunities (Colossians 4:2-3; Mark 16:15; Acts 5:42)
  3. Concerning study (Colossians 1:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:13-16)
  4. Concerning the assembly (Hebrews 10:25)
  5. Concerning Christian living (Numbers 23:10; Titus 2:11-12)
  6. Concerning evangelism (Romans 10:1; 1:14-17)
  7. Concerning hypocrisy (Matthew 6:5-6; Mark 12:38-40)

CONCLUSION: *"IF PRAYER DOES NOT DRIVE SIN OUT OF ONE'S LIFE, SIN WILL DRIVE PRAYER OUT."*