

Introduction: “Roadblocks” are anything (known or unknown) that hinder our prayers from being answered.

Roadblock #1: Prayerlessness – we fail to _____.

²You 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 4:2 (NIV)

Roadblock #2: Wrong motives – we ask _____.

³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:3 (NIV)

¹³And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:13 (NIV)

Roadblock #3: Sin in the heart or life.

¹ Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear.

² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

³ For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.

Isaiah 59:1-3 (NIV)

¹⁸ If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear;

Psalm 66:18 (NASB)

Roadblock #4: An _____ spirit.

²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

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.

Mark 11:24-25 (NIV)

²⁶ Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NASB)

Roadblock #5: A wrong treatment of our _____.

⁷Husbands, 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.

⁸Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

⁹Do 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.

1 Peter 3:7-9 (NIV)

Roadblock #6: _____ in our giving.

¹³ If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

Proverbs 21:13 (NIV)

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

⁷Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. What do we mean by a “Roadblock” to answered prayer?
2. Why do you think God’s power and answers are withheld when one of these “Roadblocks” is present in our lives?
3. Do any of these “Roadblocks” represent a “kink” in your spiritual hose? Are you missing out on God’s greatest blessing because of one of these Roadblocks?
4. What would you need to do to remove this “Roadblock” from your life? Do you need help or support in taking this step? Where could you get that help, if needed?