

## Lesson 4 – Barriers to Prayer

“The greatest stumbling-block in the way of victory over prayerlessness is the secret feeling that we shall never obtain the blessing of being delivered from it.”

Andrew Murray, The Prayer Life

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” James 5:16b NKJV

The Amplified: “The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its workings].

So what keeps our prayers from being fervent, “availing much” or from being powerful and dynamic?

1. Our flesh – our sinful nature – resists every attempt our heart makes at praying
  - a. The flesh hates the vulnerability of prayer
  - b. Old habits die hard – Romans 7:15-25
2. Sin
  - a. Deadens the appetite for prayer – guilt prevents us from coming boldly before the throne of grace. I John 3:19-24
  - b. Prevents prayers from being heard - Matt. 6:15, Mark 11:25
  - c. James 4:17 - to know to do good and not do it is sin.
  - d. Rosalind Rinker, Prayer: Conversing with God, . pp 56-57. Zondervan Books, Grand Rapids, MI, 1959.
3. Satan
  - a. Brings temptation to prevent us from praying
  - b. Puts barriers in our way
4. T-i-m-e  
Oftentimes it is said that a look at your checkbook will reflect your priorities, but a look at your calendar and how you spend your time will also.

Murray, Andrew. The Prayer Life. Moody Press, Chicago, Illinois.