

# The Great Hindrance

## *Self Sufficiency*

There are many hindrances to effective prayer. The greatest of those is self-sufficiency. Self sufficiency is believing that without Divine intervention you can succeed pretty well. Jesus said emphatically, "Without me you can do nothing." What part of "nothing" don't we understand? Success without a broken and contrite heart, surrendered knees, and a sense of total helplessness, depravity and desperation is nothing to God. It is emptiness, a chasing of the wind. It is vanity, self sufficiency dressed up in spiritual priestly clothes. It is an empty farce. It is nothing. It is wood, hay and stubble.

Self sufficiency crowns itself with prayerlessness. It prides itself on its work, sacrifice and faithfulness. It revels in its cheap accomplishments that mere fleshly efforts can produce. It brags of numbers, crowds, money, and man power. It loves its buildings, beauty, music, and electronic gadgets, and programs. But it knows nothing of powerful deliverance, miraculous healing, and the glorious presence of the Shekinah glory. God interventions are unheard of. Revivals accompanied by weeping and repentance and strangely unknown spiritual commodities.

Self sufficiency is naked of Holy Spirit power and anointing. Its knees are unbent, its heart is unbroken, its eyes are dry of tears, its fasts are feasts, its vigils are parties, its prayer meetings contrived gimmicks and poorly attended. It is predictable, controlled, planned, promoted, and pathetically absent of any miraculous undergirdings. It stands on its own two feet.

An effective prayer life begins with an awareness of the sin of self sufficiency. Self sufficiency needs to be taken to the woodshed and suffer a good licking at the hands of a loving Heavenly Father. Self sufficiency robs God of opportunity and glory. It steals the show! It spot lights the human servant rather than the Divine presence. It locks God a closet. It relegates him to the back room far from sight or sound. It hinders others from knowing and experiencing God himself.

Self sufficiency deserves to suffer catastrophic failure in which the perpetrator has no where to turn but up. God will not share his glory with an amateur. Prayerlessness is an affront to God's mighty working power. It insults the Holy Spirit. It leans on human devices. It cheapens the God of the Bible to the level of the gods of this age, mere trinkets on the shelf, quaint, cute, but entirely unnecessary. Self sufficient prayerlessness says God is not really needed at all. It says one can live without him, perform for him, work without his power, plan without his direction, and succeed without his help.

Self sufficiency is the Church of Laodocia (Rev 3:15-19) dressed up in the world's finest, decked out with gold and silver, claiming to see, but in reality as blind as a bat, poor as a church mouse, naked as a jay bird, powerless as a paraplegic, and as sick and senile as an nonagenarian. Self sufficiency has no place in the Kingdom of God.