Hindrances to Prayer
1 Peter 3:7

Introduction:
A. Christians ought always to pray. (Lk. 18:1)
B. Christians need the benefits of prayer:
   1. Necessities of life. (Matt. 6:11; Jas. 4:2).
   2. A quite & peaceful life (1 Tim. 2:1,2).
   3. “Sanctified” food (1 Tim. 4:4,5).
   4. Peace of mind. (Phil. 4:5-6).
   5. Forgiveness (Acts 8:22; Mt. 6:12).
C. Christians need no hindrances to prayer.

Discussion:
I. An Improper Attitude Toward God.
   A. Praying while sinning against Him. (Prov. 28:9; John 9:31).
      1. Refuse to repent and be baptized.
      2. Forsaking assembling together (Heb. 10:25).
      3. Living worldly lives: Drinking, lasciviousness (cf. Pray at game in immodest dress).
      4. Refusing to work thing prayed for (Bread - 2 Thess 3:10; Good children - Eph. 6:4).
   B. Praying while doubting God (Jas. 1:6,7).
   C. Praying without submitting to His will (1 John 5:14,15) — Our will be done, not his.

II. An Improper Attitude Toward Others.
   A. Mistreating others.
      1. Family (1 Pet. 3:7).
      2. Defrauding neighbor.
   B. Unwilling to forgive (Matt. 6:12, 14-15).

III. An Improper Attitude Toward Ourselves.
   A. Self-centered prayer. (Me, my wife, son John, his wife ...”)
      1. To spend on own pleasures (Jas 4:3).
      2. To receive praise from others (Matt. 6:5,6)
   B. Lack of self-discipline hinders us from praying.
      1. Self-discipline needed to pray constantly. (Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17).
      2. Self-discipline needed to pray fervently. (Jas. 5:16; Col. 4:12).
      3. Self-discipline needed to pray sincerely. (Ps. 17:1)

Conclusion:
A. We need prayer so badly — must not hinder it.
B. We need to pray, but do not substitute it for obedience and godliness.