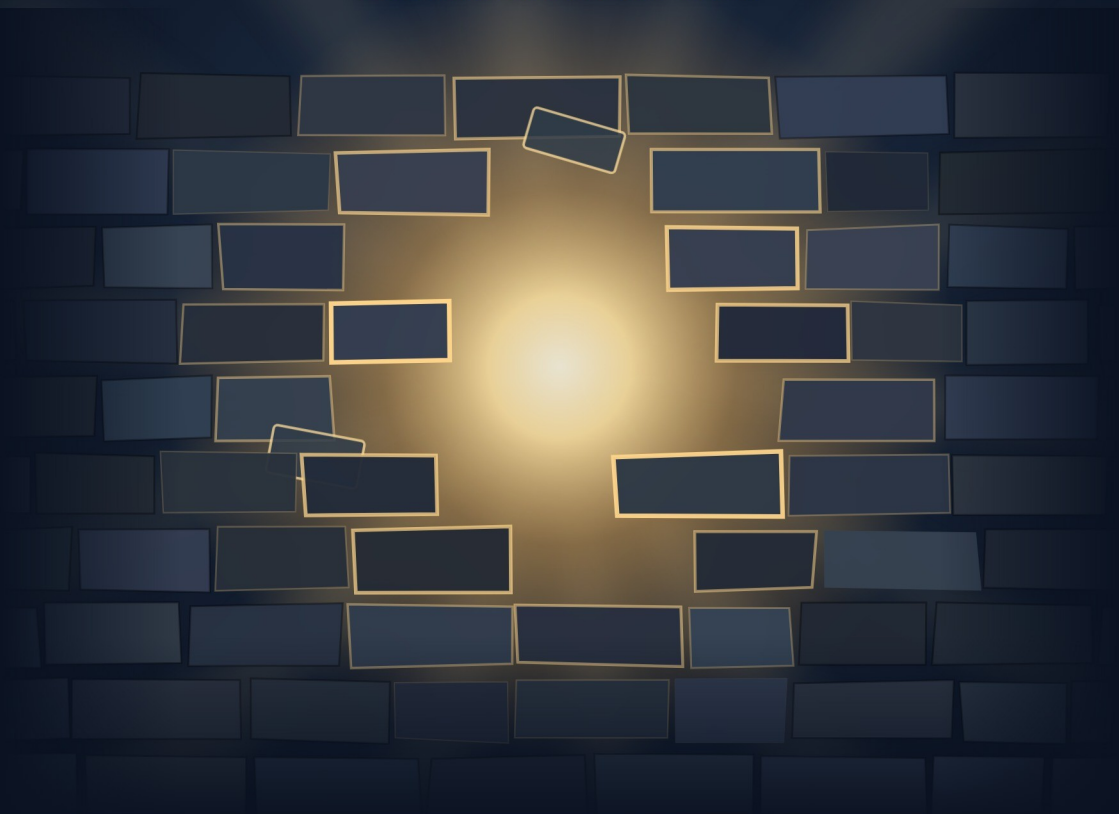


POTENTIAL

Barriers TO PRAYERS

*Eight Hindrances to Answered Prayer
and How to Remove Them*



UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the blessed Holy Spirit, my Mentor and Senior Partner. I am the least among the called, but by the grace of God I am what I am today, and His grace which was bestowed on me was not in vain. Thanks be to God for the body of Christ, my teammates the Iron Pillars, and my fathers in the Lord and in ministry. Above all, my twin brother, Engr. Emeka Longinus Udeh, is a source of inspiration to me. May God bless you all. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I give all thanks to God Almighty, who called me into His service and gave me the grace to write this book. To Him be all the glory.

I am grateful to my father in the Lord, Rev. N. F. Ogbonna, whose footsteps I follow in ministry, and to my family for their love, patience and prayers.

My heartfelt thanks go to the members of Iron Pillar Prayer and Outreach Ministry, to my church family at Freie Christengemeinde Villach, and to every brother and sister who has prayed with me and for me over the years.

Finally, I thank you, the reader. May the Lord remove every barrier to your prayers and draw you nearer to Him. Amen.

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CHAPTER ONE

Why Prayers Go Unanswered

Prayer is one of the great platforms that create a link between humanity and divinity. A broken link is a failed network. Get connected today!

PASTOR UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:19).

Prayer is communication between man and God. It is not just verbal talk or a religious activity we perform whenever we gather for worship. Prayer is more than this; it is a way we relate to God. We can express our thoughts to God in other ways as well, but prayer is also a way we pour out our requests to Him. People send their requests to their loved ones through different channels. In the spiritual realm, we send our requests to God through prayer.

Prayer creates a link between us and God. In fact, God has chosen to respond to the needs of the earth through the prayers of His people. The Bible has many accounts of what prayer does. Whether in secret or in the open, once we sincerely pray to God from our hearts, He will respond to our needs. I have written a book on how to pray effectively, *Prevailing in Prayer*. In that book, you will find different ways of praying effectively and receiving answers to your prayers. In this book, we want to discover why so many people do not receive answers to

their prayers. These reasons are what we call potential barriers. It is like asking our earthly fathers for something: they can either respond to our needs or not. So we want to explore the reasons why our heavenly Father may not respond to our needs.

God is not unjust; He will not withhold good things from His children. He is a good God, and He gives good gifts. The Bible says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). God is a good God. Praise the Lord! I am living proof of this. He has been so faithful to me, and to everyone who is reading this book. He has answered my prayers in the past, He is still answering me in the present, and I know He will always answer me.

One day in class, my professor told us that he was a son of God who liked doing good and helping people. He prayed to God, he said, but God had never spoken to him in his entire life. He did not understand why, but he would keep doing good. There were Hindus and Muslims in the class too. So I told the professor that God speaks to me when I pray to Him. He said, “What? Are you schizophrenic? What do you mean? How can God speak to you? Is it from the ceiling or what?” I told him that God speaks to us, but we often ignore His voice. Prayer is communication, and whenever we communicate, there is always feedback. We talk to God, and He also talks to us. When we have not developed listening ears, we cannot hear Him. Even children hear the voice of their parents and obey their fathers; how much more should we hear God, our heavenly Father! God has told us to cast our cares upon Him, for He cares for us. We can only cast these burdens on Him when we kneel down in prayer and commune with Him as friends commune with each other.

We must make our knees the meeting point with our Lord. We must learn to trust God when we pray. We must let go of the many things that breach our communication and network with God, and then allow

our spirits to connect with Him in prayer. When we do this, God will respond to our needs. In the following chapters, we will consider different factors that hinder answered prayer. Once these factors are identified and dealt with, we will reconnect with God, and He will hear us. Stay blessed as you continue to read this book. Don't forget that it is the will of God to give you His kingdom. But the choice is yours. Once you respond in obedience to His clarion call of salvation, you become a candidate for His visitation. The Bible says, "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2, ASV). Don't delay your salvation today!

CHAPTER TWO

Unconfessed Sins

Sin is appealing and attractive, but it has attacking, binding and crushing effects. Sin creates a broken link between us and God in prayer.

PASTOR UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

“Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?” (Habakkuk 1:13, NIV).

Unconfessed sin is one of the plainest reasons why prayer loses its power and answers do not come. Our God is holy, and when we come to Him with sin we have not confessed, that sin stands like a wall between Him and us. The prophet Isaiah said it clearly: “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2, NIV). Sin separates us from God. Sin has attractive and appealing features, but it has binding and crushing effects. Once sin clogs our hearts and we fail to confess it before God in prayer, we close the ears of God to our needs. David learned this by experience. He knew that God does not draw near to the one who hides his sin, and so he wrote: “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened” (Psalm 66:18, NIV).