

The Balance Series - Lesson 6

MY WILL VS. HIS

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Origin of issues

- There is a balance between the natural and the spiritual realms that cannot be overlooked. We must consider the fact that what we do in the natural will effect how we relate to God in the spiritual.
- Many of our issues in the natural come from how we were raised and the things we did early in life. But these natural issues can cause spiritual issues that can change our lives dramatically if not addressed. This is why it's very important to train up children in the way they should go, so when they are old, they will keep it and not seek to please or impress people but rather please God. **Prov. 22:6**
- Prayer is a powerful tool for communicating with God and getting his will accomplished. But many times, we can drastically effect the outcome of our prayers by the posture from which we are praying from. **James 5:16***The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Obedience is key

- The charismatic movement has convinced people that praise is what gets results from God, but that's not true. Though praise can be a sacrifice, obedience is always better to God than sacrifice. If we are not obedient, we will not receive from God! **Psa. 2:12** *Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*
- People are not practicing obedience these days. They are doing what they want and feel they should do and then praising God for whatever it is they get out of it, or praising in advance? This is absurd. Many churches are being moved to praise because it is emotional and if people can be emotionally manipulated, they will give money. People don't mind buying hope in their situations.



God wants us to follow him and his plan, and he wants our prayers to work and not be hindered. This holds up our blessings. He illustrates this and tells us in his word the occasions when our prayers are hindered.

1. **If we waver or compromise, our prayers will be hindered.** *James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*
2. **if we are harboring unforgiveness, our prayers will be hindered.** *Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*
3. **If a man is not treating his wife right, his prayers will be hindered.** *1Pet. 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.*
4. **If a women is not reverencing her husband, her prayers will be hindered.** *Titus 2:4 These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and be pure, to take care of their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God.*
5. **If we have idols or false gods in our lives, our prayers are hindered.** *Deut. 11:28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.*
6. **If we are practicing sin, our prayers are hindered.** *Psa. 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*
7. **If we are not operating in God's will, our prayers are hindered.** *1John 5:14 ¶ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

The real struggle

- Hindered prayer means hindered blessings and this causes many to live frustrating lives that consist of issues and drama continuously. We wonder why we don't have peace and are never truly happy? Most of the time, its US and the circumstances we have decided to live under.
- There are times when we are tested and tried, and cannot control the circumstances around us. **1Pet. 4:12** *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:* These tests must be passed to move on to the next level many times. But many of us are suffering the circumstances we are facing because of our own choices and lack of obedience to God's will. **1Pet. 4:15** *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.*
- The way we we feel about ourselves plays a huge part in how we treat people, our spouses, our neighbors, etc. And the way we feel about ourselves plays the biggest part in our ability to follow God's plan and obey him. When we lack self value, worth, or esteem, it's hard for us to follow God's plan because we are continuously worried about how people feel about us. We begin to use God's blessings to prove that we are better than others and this hinders what we receive from God. **Phil. 2:3** *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others*



Summary

Proving people wrong, tearing others down, and competing with people because of low self value will cause us to make a mess of our lives that God will not bless. Following God is about denying yourself, taking up YOUR cross, and following him. We cannot be faithful to God and continue to prove ourselves in the eyes of man. If we are to live in God's abundant blessings, we must learn to avoid the things that hinder our prayers and do what is right in the sight of God. We can't act overly spiritual and expect to cover up our issues. Why act spiritual when you can be truly spiritual? God can fix your situation if you would decide to obey his word and do things right. If we do not get this balance, we will continuously find ourselves struggling with personal issues and faking our spirituality. I would rather obey God and make things right than pretend they are right any day.

Rom. 2:6 *He will reward each one according to his works: eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory and honor and immortality, but wrath and anger to those who live in selfish ambition and do not obey the truth but follow unrighteousness.*