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## SUSTAINING PRAYER BROKENNESS AND REPENTANCE

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# Why This Message?

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- We have been discussing Prayer
- It is believed that the reason why many Christians do not receive from God is because they don't ask
- This is becoming the same for Repentance. Does the average Christian seek forgiveness and repentance of sins?
- **Right Living Helps Our Praying and vice versa**
- **Relationships Impact Our Prayers and vice versa**
- Does it matter that your prayer life not be hindered?

# How Serious Is It? Steering Away Teaching Repentance

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*“[People] already feel guilty enough. They’re not doing what they should, raising their kids—we can all find reasons. So I want them to come to Lakewood or our meetings and be lifted up, to say, ‘You know what? I may not be perfect, but I’m moving forward. I’m doing better.’ And I think that motivates you to do better.” Quote from Joel Osteen*

As good as this may sound, this is a worldly deception. It may make people feel good and boost a church’s rating, but it is not the wisdom of God.

As pastors and leaders in the church, we cannot fail to include hell alongside other doctrines such as sanctification, justification, repentance, and right relationship and intimacy with Jesus. If we do so, we not only do a disservice to those that God has entrusted to us, but to our own calling as well.

## Joel Osteen Just Explained Why He Refuses to Preach on Hell



Article from Church Leaders and can be found at:  
<http://www.churchleaders.com/daily-buzz/276763-joel-osteen-wont-preach-about-hell-but-he-should.html>

# Lack of Repentance Being Taught

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- The message we hear from many pulpits today is, "Just believe. Accept Christ, and you'll be saved."
  
- **Confusion over Repentance, Remorse, Regret**
  
- **Hypergrace eliminates "godly sorrow"**
  - 2 Corinthians 7:10 - For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.



# Scripture

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Psalms 66:18 - If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

- ▣ Sin brings Separation; Through Separation comes a loss of Connection
- ▣ It is difficult to pray with our minds on sin and iniquity
  
- ▣ **The Lord will not hear me** - He will not regard and answer my prayer. The idea is, that in order that prayer may be heard, there must be a purpose to forsake all forms of sin
  
- ▣ John 9:31 - "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.

**If this is true then why do we allow Sin to linger in our lives?  
Why don't we address the Sin issue when ministering to others?**

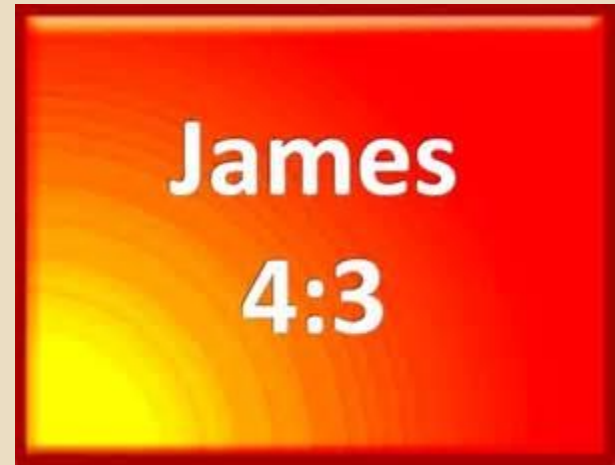
# Asking Amiss From a Reprobate Mindset

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- I believe that Psalms 66:16 and James 4:3 are connected

*James 4:3 - [Or] you do ask [God for them] and yet fail to receive, because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives. Your intention is [when you get what you desire] to spend it in sensual pleasures. (Amplified)*

- A person with iniquity in one's heart, is not praying with the right motive and right intent. God sees his selfishness and does not respond



# Prayer Requests?

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*I'll send him his income tax rebate check early and he'll stop praying.*

Lord, I need you to help me get my rent money together by the first of the month. I'm in a bind financially, and if you can just help me get some funds so I can go on the church trip to Las Vegas, I would really appreciate it. Also, deal with these people stressing me out at work! I need favor!



**Satan**



**Struggling Saint**

# Unconfessed vs Unrepentant

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- Unconfessed – Not admitted or acknowledged
- Unrepentant – Harboring Sin willfully (Psalms 66:18)
- For all of us have sinned. He did not even say that if at this moment there is any sin in the life, He would not hear us. (1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 8), but if we harbor sin in our hearts, we are already disconnected from God
- To regard sin means to “love sin.” To love sin is not walking in relationship with the Father



# Repentance Breaks the Power of Sin

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- Remember Repentance is a hard pill to swallow
- Remorse and Regret are placebos
  - Remorse is being sorry you got caught. *Remorse* means that something comes back to bite you
  - Regret is your feelings of being inconvenienced by your sin
  - *Regret is a feeling of remorse that is a negative emotion as it leads one to think continuously about his past action or behavior and causes more shame, guilt, anger, disappointment etc.*
- **Repentance is the cure**
  - “Blue pill” – Remain the way you are
  - “Red Pill” – Breakout and experience a Kingdom mindset



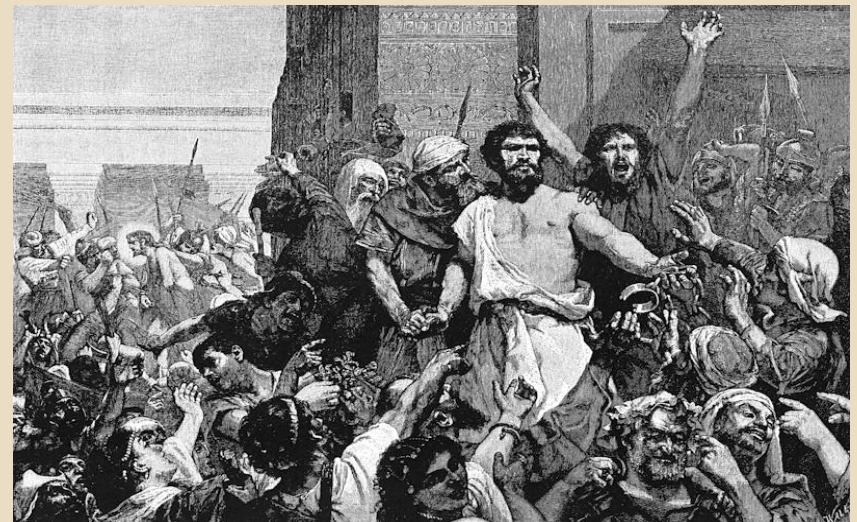
# If Someone is Struggling with Secret Sin

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- Confess it openly, naming the Sin and repenting of the impact that it has on you, your family, community, church, etc.
- Sin has power in three areas: S.I.T.
  - ▣ **S**ecretiveness (Hidden vice such as pornography)
  - ▣ **I**gnorance (Willful ignorance of what God deems sin)
  - ▣ **T**olerance (Selective interpretation of Scripture to please men over God)

*Genesis 19:1 - And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and **Lot sat in the gate of Sodom**: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;*

Lot Sat in the midst of sin. Psalms 1:1 talks about being inactive in the way of sin. Our inactivity whether it be spiritual or emotional, allows Sin to have power over us.



# Prayer Be Not Hindered

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- Hindered prayer means to be “cut off;” to be delayed or obstructed.
  - Doesn't mean that it will not come
  - Daniel experienced hindered prayer
  
- Hindered prayer may not necessary be unanswered prayer but it is not receiving fully all that God has for us due to our disobedience
  
- When we pray and have unconfessed and unrepentant sins, then our prayer lives cannot be as rich, rewarding and fulfilling
  
- When they are walking in blatant rebellion against God because pride, guilt, anger, etc. we will dull our ability to hear God's voice and to pray in wisdom and in righteousness

# Prayers Centers Us in Christ

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- Many of us think that real Christian maturity is when we come to a place where we are somewhat "independent" of God
- But prayers centers us in our relationship with God so that we may endure and overcome trials, sin, and oppression



# Prayer Disciplines Us

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Matthew 26:41 - "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- While Jesus was encouraging Peter to pray so that when the time come he would not deny him, prayer brings us to a place of connection to God so that we don't deny Him, especially in the midst of trials
- We pray not only to petition, but to strengthen ourselves in the midst of trials as we wait for God

# Prayer Impacts Relationships and Vice Versa

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:7: You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, **so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

- **Disobedience to this truth can hinder your prayers**
- **Discord in the home is a definite obstacle to prayer**
- Wives submit to your husbands (Ephesians 5:22-24)
- Children Obey your parents so it may be well with thee (Ephesians 6:1,2)

# Keep the Prayer Line Open

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- Hindered prayer may require that changes need to be made at home and to establish godly order. Nothing is more important than unclogging the streams of prayer and power that when issues are left unattended at home.
- It may be that changes need to be made in the wider circle of relationships where there is bitterness or guile. For example, unforgiveness hinders our prayers
- When First Peter says in verse 4:7, "Be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the sake of prayers," he means that there are disciplines of the mind and the spirit which can preserve unhindered prayer in your life.

# Prayer With a Strong Mind

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1 Peter 4:7 - But the end and culmination of all things has now come near; keep sound minded and self-restrained and alert therefore for [the practice of] prayer.

- We should pray with a serious mind, restrained and capable of casting down imaginations and ungodly thoughts
- We should pray with a sense of alertness and soberness, expecting opposition, yet expecting God to deliver
- Prayer is a “Practiced” Activity – Not in repetition, but in manner



# Sometimes We Are in the Way

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2 Chronicles 16:9 - For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. **Herein thou hast done foolishly**: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

- God many times wants to show Himself strong on our behalf, but we may lose that opportunity in forsaking Him and pursuing the arm of flesh
- King Asa was able to bring about a solution, but not in the way that God prescribed
- Now because of his disobedience, he went from a peaceful nation to a time of conflict until his death

# If You Continue In Sin: A Time of Brokenness May Occur

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- **Rescued in Humility** – *“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit”* (Psalms 34:18). By surrendering our stubbornness and arrogance, He accepts our brokenness and hears the prayers of the righteous.
- God may allow us to reach a breaking point that causes us to seek the Lord more sincerely. This is through the process of brokenness
- Brokenness is never weakness. It is coming to a place of total dependence. Jesus said that the broken man is truly a blessed man (Mt. 5:3).
- Brokenness produces true humility. Until our pride is broken we will not humble ourselves before God or men

# Example of Brokenness

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- In the Movie Ben Hur, we understand how we as believers should respond when ministering to those who have been broken due to sin, rebellion, ignorance, and disobedience
- Ben Hur learned true compassion through what he suffered and in coming into contact with the Savior - **Have You Carried Anyone Lately?**

# Story of Ben Hur

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In this story, Ben Hur, a Jew and his Roman stepbrother, Messala enjoyed a brotherly relationship until one day they become bitter enemies. The story begins while racing their horses, Ben Hur is injured and Messala carries him home to help him recover.

A turn of events ends Hur in the ship galley as a slave and Messala rising to the top as a Roman soldier and gladiator.

They both meet in the end in a chariot race to end all races. Both men hardened in their hearts by feelings of betrayal, bitterness, and hatred.



# Ben Hur

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- Ben Hur in the midst of his rage and bitterness comes into contact with the Christ. His coming to know the Christ brings him to a place of brokenness and filled him with compassion
- In the final scene after the race and Messala is injured, Hur visits him. Even in his helpless condition, Messala contends with Hur saying, “You have me where you want me. Now finish the job!”
- Hur response was one of compassion. “When I was injured you carried me. Now it’s my time to carry you.”



# Compassion Is Our Response

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- Hebrews 5:8 - Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
  - ▣ Hur learned compassion, forgiveness, and courage through what he experienced
  - ▣ Jesus learned obedience through suffering
  
- True Compassion is reaching out to carry someone even when that person is still trying to destroy you
  - ▣ While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us
  - ▣ As believers we don't respond to others brokenness with harsh judgment, but compassion guided by discernment and wisdom

# Brokenness & Repentance

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- **B**rokenness – Come to a place of humility and dependence
- **R**epentance - Change your mind and change your condition
- **A**tonement - Realize that Jesus has paid the price for your sins
- **V**indication – Accept God’s forgiveness and redemption
- **E**levate – Lift yourself up as your lift up Jesus
  
- Repentance leads to Redemption, Revival, Repair, Restoration, and Revelation
- Desire more than just forgiven, but to be repaired and restored

# David's Request: "R" U "Ready"

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## Psalms 51: 7-13

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may **rejoice**.

9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and **renew a right spirit** within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 **Restore unto me the joy** of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

13 *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

David **Requested** Several Things: **Repair** (broken bones); Help Me **Rejoice** again; **Renew** a **Right** spirit within me; **Restore** and Uphold; **Redeem** me so that I can accomplish what you called me to do

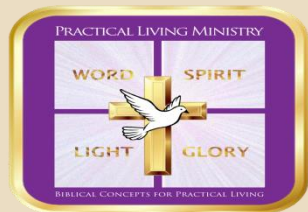


# Conclusion/Prayer

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## Let us Pray





# Practical Living Ministry

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***Practical Living Ministry exists to assist individuals, groups, and organizations to operate to their full God-given ability by sharing life changing principles for spiritual growth and development.***

***If this message touched you, please let me hear from you.***

***If you would like to encourage us financially to keep sharing these kind of messages, please go to our donation section on our website at [www.practicallivingministry.org](http://www.practicallivingministry.org)***

***If you would like to contact Dr. Jones for a speaking engagement at your church or event concerning biblical leadership, mentoring, and Christian culture. Please contact Pastor Kenneth Jones at***

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