

March 2, 2014

## **WHY IS GOD NOT ANSWERING MY PRAYERS?**

**James 4:3; Ps. 66:18; Is. 59:1-2; Matt. 5:21-24**

### **Wrong motives. James 4:3**

- Our motives reflect our **core** values. James 4:3; Matt. 6:19-21; Ps. 37:4; Eccl. 2:1-11; Matt. 19:27; John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38, 17:4
- Our motives reflect our **lack** of spiritual depth. Eph. 4:13-16; Col. 1:28; 1 Cor. 3:11; 2 Pet. 3:18; Matt. 19:27; Gal. 5:16, 22-23; 1 Cor. 12:4-7

### **Unrepentant sin. Ps. 66:18; Is. 59:1-2**

- We, at times, hold on to certain **sin** in our lives. Ps. 66:18; Is. 59:1-2; 1 John 1:8; Gen. 3:10-13; 1 Sam. 15:1-34; Acts 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 10:5, 13:5, 4:4
- We refuse to listen to and **obey** the Holy Spirit. John 16:8-12; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Cor. 4:4; Acts 5:1-5; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19

### **Strained relationships. Matt. 5:21-24**

- **Our** relationships in general. Matt. 5:21-24; Eph. 4:31-32; Rom. 12:10, 17-21; Col. 3:8
- Our **family** relationships. 1 Pet. 3:1-7; Eph. 5:21-6:4; Col. 3:18-24; Luke 15:11-32; Eph. 4:32

### **What to do about it.**

- Be sure you **keep** your motives in check.
- Be sure to **deal** with your sin immediately.
- Be a bridge-builder in **all** your relationships.
- Be the one to take the first **step** in reconciling and restoring your relationships.