

Hindrances to Spiritual Growth

13: 3-9; Mk. 4:3-9; Lk. 8:5-8



“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” 2 Pet. 3:17, 18



Two Gates

- Matt. 7:13, 14 – “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Hindrances that will Stop Us Spiritually

- **Maturity comes out of trials – Jam. 1:1-4**
- **Anxiety or worry; Fear; Tensions**
- **Resentments; Jealousy; Ego**
- **Wrong reactions; Herd Complex**
- **Closed Mind**



Persecution – Matt. 13:20-21

- **God warned us - 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:12-16**
- **We need depth in the Word of God - Col. 2:6-7**
- **Persecution can come in the form of too much exposure to evil - 1 Cor. 15:33**

***Wrong Priorities can be a
Hindrane to Spiritual Growth***
(Matt. 13:22; Mk. 4:18-19; Lk. 8:14)

- Notice the things listed -
 - Cares of this world.
 - Deceitfulness of riches.
 - Lust of other things.
 - Pleasures of this life.



**Primary affections are on things on earth –
Col. 3:1-3**

**Worry and anxiety over things of this life –
Matt. 6:25; Phil. 4:6,7; Matt. 16:24, 25**



Dealing with Past Guilt - 1 Jn. 1:5-10

- Rom. 6: 1-2 – “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”*
- Vs 6 – “*knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”*

The “*old man*” must be put off – Eph. 4:22-24

- Reasons why one will not deal with guilt:

- Fear - 2 Tim. 1:7; Rev. 21:8

- Pride - Phil. 2:5-9

- Shame - Ps. 51:1-3; 139:1-10



Reasons why one will not deal with guilt:

- **Stubbornness - Matt. 13:13-16; Acts 7:51-53, 58**
- **Indifference is a part of stubbornness - Rev. 3:14-22; Matt. 18:3-4**



Conclusion

- **Two things should be obvious from this study:**
 - - We must be involved in those things that promote spiritual development.**
 - We must deal correctly with problems that hinder that growth.**

The spiritual person is:

- 1. One who has been convicted through the Gospel.**
- 2. One who has committed to die to sin and to live unto God**
- 3. One who is learning from the Word of God how to live and thus will produce more fruit of the Spirit in his life.**
- 4. One who is gaining greater strength daily for the Christian walk.**