Daily Habits That Block God's Blessings By Peter Salemi

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Have you ever wondered why God's blessings sometimes feel delayed or distant—even when you're praying and seeking Him? The truth is, it's often *not* God holding back, *but daily habits* that quietly block His flow in your life.

In this article, you'll discover:

- The hidden dangers of complaining and negative speech
- How unforgiveness locks your heart and blocks your prayers
- Why neglecting prayer and God's Word leads to spiritual dryness
- The truth about hidden sin and how confession brings freedom
- The trap of self-reliance and how surrender releases God's power

These are the daily habits that hinder God's blessings; and how the *enemy* uses them against you and how you can overcome them. At the end of this article you will understand how to clear away these blockages and walk in God's favor.

Bad Habits

Complaining and negative speech- Complaining seems harmless but it is deeply destructive. The Apostle Paul wrote about what Israel went through in the Old Testament, especially during the time of the Exodus, and he said, "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted....Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (1 Cor 10:6, 11). The Apostle shows that these particular instances that the Israelites went through were examples for us, teaching us how to avoid sin, and punishment.

The Israelites had food, water and God's presence in the wilderness, yet they continued to "murmur" and *complain* to Moses and God about their circumstances. This constant grumbling kept them *away* from the Promised Land. Scripture reveals, "And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

- "How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation, which *murmur against me?* I have heard the *murmurings* of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.
- "Say unto them, *As truly as* I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:
- "Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,
- "Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun." (Numbers 14:26-30). Complaining shifts your focus from God and his goodness to what you see in front of you-this is *not* a demonstration of faith.

Faith is, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb 11:1). Focusing on your current situation and *not* on God promises will blind you to his blessings he has for you.

Satan the Devil and his minions want your *words* to agree with defeat instead of faith. When your mouth speaks constant *negativity*; (and words come from the heart as Jesus said, see Matthew 15:18-20) with constant *complaints*, eventually your whole life will become so.

To break free is to replace grumbling and mumbling with *gratitude*. Philippians 2:14 says, "Do all things *without* murmurings and disputings:" When you thank God even in difficult circumstances, you align your heart and mind with God's promises. A thankful heart attracts God's presence. Gratitude opens the door for blessings to flow. "Surely the righteous *shall give thanks* unto thy name: the upright shall *dwell in thy presence*." (Psalm 140:13).

Holding on to Unforgiveness-Unforgiveness is one of the enemies' favorite tools. Satan knows that bitterness locks you in chains and cuts off your prayers. Jesus warned us in Matthew 6:15, "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Of course forgiveness is done upon their *repentance* (see Luke 17:3-4). This means that unforgiveness not only hurts your relationships-it hurts your connection with God.

The devil's strategy is to keep you stuck in resentment, reliving the pain over and over, so that bitterness becomes part of your identity. But forgiveness releases you from bondage. Forgiveness benefits the *forgiver* and well as the *forgiven*. Forgiveness clears the way for peace, joy, and blessings to return to your life.

Neglecting Prayer and the Word of God-Many believers love God but slowly drift into spiritual dryness because they stop feeding on his word and spending time with him. They lose the fire of their zeal over time. And that is the Devil's plan. He wants to destroy the Christian yes, but he also wants to distract the Christian as well.

When prayer becomes optional and scripture is neglected one loses their spiritual strength. Romans 10:17, says, "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Without the word of God your faith starves!

The solution is simple but *powerful*-prioritize your time with God. Time with God in prayer and bible study will anchor you, guide your steps and keep your spirit sensitive to God's voice. Doing this will keep you in position to receive the blessings God *already* has prepared for you.

<u>Living in Hidden Sin</u>-Hidden sin is one of the biggest blessing blockers. The enemy does *not* want you to confess your sins but to keep them in the dark. But secrecy is where sin grows strongest. Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins *shall not prosper*: but whoso *confesseth* and *forsaketh them* shall have mercy."

James wrote, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16).

And John said, "If we *confess our sins*, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9). Confess and Forsake and you will have mercy-God's mercy! Satan however, his strategy is shame. He wants Christians to believe that they are too far gone *beyond* redemption so that Christians stay silent and stuck. The longer the sin is hidden the deeper its grip becomes.

Again the solution is repentance and confession. Bring your sins to light, *first* to God, and if necessary to a fellow trusted believer in Christ who can stand with you. The moment you confess and repent the chains begin to break and God's mercy and forgiveness washes over you! Whatever we *uncover*, God will *cover*, "For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever" (2 Chron 7:3). His mercy is greater than our mess.

Relying on your own strength-One of the most subtle traps is *self-reliance*. Pride takes over and says, "You can handle this you don't need God." That was the lie that led to Satan's downfall "Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, *till iniquity* [the sin of Pride] was found in thee." (Ezekiel 28:15); and he has been spreading this lie ever since. When you lean only on yourself, you shut out God's supernatural help.

Proverbs says, "*Trust* in the LORD with all thine heart; and *lean not unto thine own understanding*.

"In all thy ways *acknowledge him*, and he shall direct thy paths." (3:5-6). Depending on yourself *alone* will always lead to exhaustion. We must remember, "For we are labourers *together* with God:" (1 Cor 3:9). We work *with* him and he leads the way, "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:" (Psalm 127:1). Depending on God always leads to victory.

The solution is to surrender to God, and let him lead, and use his understanding when it comes to your plans and concerns. He will direct your paths in ways your *own strength never could*. God's power always begins where your strength ends.

These habits may seem small, but they are powerful barriers. Break them and you will see God's blessings flow in new ways in your life.