

**WHO CAN HINDER
THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST,
AND HOW?**

TEXT:

1 Corinthians 9:12b: . . . but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the Gospel of Christ.

**Is it possible The Gospel, which is the
power of God unto salvation,
can actually be hindered?**

Paul declares just that very thing. The Gospel, which is the light of the world shining into darkened hearts, can be hindered.

Can it be prevented from penetrating human hearts?

Can we stop the flow of the Gospel, which is the River of Life?

Can we leave a thirsty soul drooping and famishing for want of the water of Life?



**The GOSPEL - is also -
The Bread of Life**

The Gospel is also the Bread of Life.

Can it be possible that anyone would be so heartless so as to withhold the Gospel from one who is starving and fainting?

If our Lord were to give us :

- **the power to arrest all the laws of the mighty universe, or**
- **roll back the orbs of heaven, or**

- **launch thunderbolts and kindle lightning . . .**

it would ***not*** begin to surpass in importance of the power to hinder this Gospel!

In the first century, Paul was too spiritual a man to dally with a false or unreal dread. After founding so many churches, writing so many letters, and having such influence over the multitudes for their spiritual welfare, Paul believed there was a fearful liability, even in him, as stated in **1 Corinthians 9:12b**:

1 Corinthians 9:12b: Suffer all things, lest we should hinder the Gospel.

To hinder the Gospel is an immense evil.

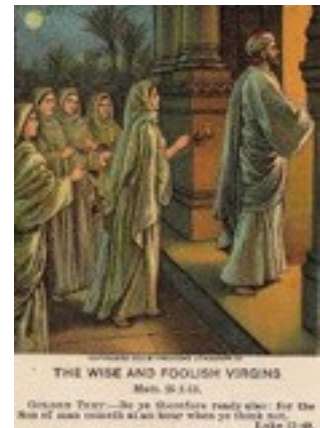
The hindrance does not come from the Gospel itself.

HOW CAN THE GOSPEL BE HINDERED?

1. We can hinder the Gospel by our lamps going out and by becoming as the five foolish virgins.

The virgins lost something out of their lives that made them useless and unprepared for the Master's return.

We Saints can hinder the Gospel of Christ by being religious, but not spiritual.



- **We may have a form of godliness (a “do-and-don’t” religion), but have no power.**
- **We can become absorbed in the letter of the Word of God and neglect Christ, the Living Word.**
- **We can hug the bottle and not drink the contents.**
- **We can talk about the Meat of the Word, and not eat it.**
- **We can hear about the Anointing Oil of the Spirit, and be dry, noisy, and squeaky.**

2. We can hinder the Gospel by being lukewarm.

- Lukewarm as to the salvation of the lost soul.
 - Lukewarm in prayer life which is a state of alienation from the Lord. Self-satisfied.
 - Lukewarm in our love to Christ, and become an unprofitable servant.
3. We can hinder the Gospel by permitting the cares of this world, its riches, and its pleasures to cause us — like Lot — to lose our influence and testimony, and to be mingled with the dross [impurities] of this world.

• Cares of this life - Martha

Luke 10:38-42:

³⁸ Now it came to pass, as they went, that He entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house.

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His Word.

⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

4. Riches – Balaam (See full account in Numbers 22 - 24)

2 Peter 2:15: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

5. Pleasures - Demas

2 Timothy 4:10: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

The Word of God warns us:

1 John 2:15: Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

James 4:4b: . . . know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.



4. We can hinder the Gospel by becoming chocked with pride and self-deceived where one becomes too important to them to be used by the Lord.

Proverbs 16:18: Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

5. We hinder the Gospel when we become hypocritical — when we profess to be what we are not. That is, we continue to do the very same things we did before we came to Christ. When non-believers see such hypocrisy, it can cause them to question the authenticity of the life-changing power of Christ on the Cross in the lives of believers. Thus, we can hinder them from getting into the Kingdom of God.
6. We can hinder the Gospel when, as Christians, we exhibit a haughty spirit — a spirit take reeks of ‘self-righteousness’, rather than having Christ-like humility.

It would appear more like an effort to convert others to themselves, and NOT to Christ.

7. We can hinder the Gospel by possessing unforgiveness, or by holding a grudge or ill-will for another. One must go and be reconciled.

Matthew 5:23-24:

²³ Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the



altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

²⁴ Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

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