

harboring sin in your life, confess it now and receive God's forgiveness. Clear away what's preventing you from connecting with God.

## Prayer Killer #2: Lack of Faith

Lack of faith has an incredibly negative impact on a Christian's life. Without faith, prayer has no power. Even Jesus was powerless to perform any miracles in Nazareth because of the people's lack of faith (Mark 6:1-6).

Jesus' brother James gives some insight into the effect that faithlessness has on prayer. James 1:5-8 says:

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

What incredible insight this is into the mind of the unfaithful person. The word *double-minded* speaks of a condition where a person is emotionally divided, almost as if he had two souls. That condition makes a person unstable and incapable of hearing from God or receiving His gifts.

Faith is really an issue of trust. Jesus said, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" (Matt. 21:22). People are often reluctant to put their full trust in God. Yet every day they trust people without question, displaying a faith that God would love to receive from them. Think about it. People go to doctors whose names they cannot pronounce, receive a prescription they cannot read, take it to a pharmacist they've never even seen, get a medicine they don't understand, and then take it!

Why is it so much easier to trust these unknowns than to trust