

Klassen, my personal prayer partner, to keep me accountable. One of the questions he always asked me when I was still the senior pastor at Skyline was, "Are you abusing the power you have in the church?" That kept me honest. And knowing I'd have to face Bill each month and answer that question helped remind me to check my motives continually so that they would be pure and in line with God's desires for me.

Prayer Killer #7: Idols in our Lives

When most people think of idols, they think of statues that are worshiped as gods. But an idol can be anything in our life that comes between us and God. Idols come in many forms: money, career, children, pleasure. Once again, it's an issue of the heart.

Ezekiel 14:3 clearly shows the negative effect of anything that comes between a person and God. It says, "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?" The distaste that God has for idols should be clear from this passage. He doesn't even want an idol worshiper to talk to Him. On the other hand, when we remove idols from our lives, we become ripe for a personal revival.

Take a look at your own life. Is there anything that you're putting ahead of God? Sometimes it's hard to tell. One of the ways to know that something in your life is an idol is to ask yourself, "Would I be willing to give this thing up if God asked me to?" Look honestly at your attitude toward your career, possessions, and family. If there are things you wouldn't release to God, then they're blocking your access to Him.

Prayer Killer #8: Disregard for Others

Psalm 33:13 says, "From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind." God's perspective is expansive. He loves every-