

**“Overcoming 3 Common Obstacles to  
Personal Prayer”  
Part 2**

**Part 1 Review:** The first obstacle to personal, private prayer is that we have the wrong definition and purpose of prayer due to the fact that we do not fully understand who God is and how spiritually empty we are.

**Christian Prayer is:** A conversation between a born-again believer with the Triune God in response to the knowledge of God revealed by the Holy Spirit through the Word and the Son.

**The Overarching Purpose of Christian Prayer is:** Knowing God & Worship

Jesus said in his prayer to the Father in John 17:3, “And this is eternal life, that they many know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

**We will only come to know God fully through Prayer and the Scriptures. Without prayer we will starve spiritually.**

The more we know God, the better we worship Him in prayer by responding to the revelation of His character and deeds through adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication (A.C.T.S.)

**Part 2: The second obstacle to private, personal prayer is that we think doing, discussing, or distracting will be more successful than praying.**

1. **John 15:1-6** God produces spiritual fruit in and through us, but only if we abide in Christ through the Word and Prayer.

a. **Galatians 3:1-5** \_\_\_\_\_ happened by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word and Prayer; therefore, \_\_\_\_\_ will only happen through the same means of grace. Without prayer, doing good works easily tempts us to become self-righteous or to complain about having to serve.

b. **Matthew 9:37-38** \_\_\_\_\_ isn't successful without prayer.

c. **Colossians 1:9** \_\_\_\_\_ isn't successful without prayer.

2. **John 15:7-8** God can accomplish His sovereign will through our prayers, but we must abide in Him and be faithful to pray. (This is a great mystery. Though God can accomplish His will without our prayers, He often chooses to work through our prayers.)

a. **Acts 9:10-17** God may prompt you to \_\_\_\_\_ for another person.

b. **1 Samuel 1:11-18** Hannah prayed for a son instead of taking matters into her own hands. But it was always God's plan to raise up Samuel, the prophet, priest, and judge.

3. **John 15:9-11** A life of prayer will result in spiritual success and joy. Without prayer, we will choose to do whatever brings us the most pleasure or avoids the most pain. The natural man does not choose the things of the Spirit that lead to joy in the Lord.

a. **Psalm 16:11** Being in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God through prayer is the path to joy.

b. **Matthew 26:42; Hebrews 12:2** Jesus honestly would rather have avoided the cross, but he prayed and trusted in the Father's will. "Not my will be done, but Yours." Jesus endured the cross for the \_\_\_\_\_ set before him.