

“Overcoming 3 Common Obstacles to Personal Prayer” Part 3

Part 1 Review: The first obstacle to personal prayer is that we have the wrong definition and purpose.

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 is to know God and worship Him.

Jesus said in his prayer to the Father in John 17:3, “And this is eternal life, that they may 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 Word. Without communion with God through prayer and the word we will starve spiritually and be ineffective servants.
- 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 Review: The second obstacle to private, personal prayer is that we think doing, discussing, or distracting will be more successful than praying.

Jesus said to his disciples in John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

We can only bear spiritual fruit if we are abiding in Christ through the Word and Prayer.

- Salvation came through the prayer of faith responding to the Gospel.
- Sanctification comes through a prayer-filled life obedient to the Word.
- God works providentially through our prayers for our own edification, blessing, and joy.

Part 3: The third obstacle to private, personal prayer is that we are afraid God will not answer our prayers according to our own desires.

The three obstacles work together to keep us from prayer. We want *OUR* kingdom to come, according to *OUR* will, and we believe prayer is primarily to ask God for the things we want in our kingdom. But we have learned by experience that God doesn't always answer our prayers in the way we want. So, we are tempted to shrink life down to the things we can control and accomplish without God's help. And, this is when the flame of worship is extinguished and spiritual growth grinds to a halt, leading to even less prayer.

God has good reasons when he says "no" to our requests.

1. Our request isn't made with _____. We aren't really interested in hearing what God has to say. (Luke 20:1-18)
2. Our request is made for _____ reasons. (Luke 12:31-21)
3. Our request is for God to _____ other people or circumstances, when God is actually using the situation to transform us. (Luke 10:38-42)
4. Our request is made to _____ ourselves. (Mark 10:35-40)
5. Our request might actually make the situation _____. (2 Cor 12:7-10)
6. Our request is motivated by love, but God's way is more _____. (John 11)
7. Our request is good, but God's way is the _____ way to accomplish His perfect will. (Matt 26:39)

8. Ultimately, prayer is one big exercise in _____ God, which is why it is _____ for us. But, the more we pray, the more we know God, and the more we trust Him. This is why prayer is _____.

