

# **“The Goal is Not to Pray More”**

## **Prayer: Connecting With God**

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

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### **Three observations from a study on prayer from the life of Jesus and the New Testament:**

- 1. Prayer is all about dependence upon God.**  
Our lack of prayer is not the problem but the symptom.  
The problem is that we trust in ourselves, our money, and others rather than God.
- 2. Prayer is all about a relationship.**  
Our lack of prayer life is a symptom of a bigger problem.  
We're not in love with God or pursuing our relationship with Christ.
- 3. Prayer is all about advancing God's Kingdom.**  
Our lack of prayer is not the problem but a symptom that we are not consumed with God and advancing His Kingdom.

**Summary: The reason we don't pray more is because of we are too self-sufficient, worldly, and neglect our relationship with God.**

**The Solution: Repentance**

**Question: What does repentance look like for me?**

“...I interviewed ordinary people about prayer. Typically, the results went like this: Is prayer important to you? *Oh, yes*. How often do you pray? *Every day*. Approximately how long? *Five minutes—well, maybe seven*. Do you find prayer satisfying? *Not really*. Do you sense the presence of God when you pray? *Occasionally, not often*. Many of those I talked to experienced prayer more as a burden than as a pleasure. They regarded it as important, even paramount, and felt guilty about their failure, blaming themselves.”

Phillip Yancey, *Prayer: Does it Make a Difference*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2006, p. 14.

“At times, while I was attending college in the United States, I wished I were still living in the hungry, needy circumstances in which I lived in Uganda. Sometimes I felt it was easier to cling to Jesus in the state of having nothing than it was to cling to Him while surrounded by the abundance of America.”

Katie Dave, *Kisses From Katie*, Howard Books, New York, NY, 2011, p.132.

“...I have come to see prayer as a privilege, not a duty. Like all good things, prayer requires some discipline. Yet I believe that life with God should seem more like friendship than duty. Prayer includes moments of ecstasy and also dullness, mindless distraction and acute concentration, flashes of joy and bouts of irritation. In other words, prayer has features in common with all relationships that matter.”

Phillip Yancey, *Prayer: Does it Make a Difference*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2006, p. 17.