



Prayer: Called to be above Average

"The Prayer Life of Church will expand ministry borders" Jack Hayford

"In order to have something you have never had before you must do something you have never done before" Mike Murdock

Solution #1: Pray Longer

Typical pastor spends 12 minutes per day with prayer requests

The amount of time spent in prayer by Pastors:

- Very satisfied spend an average of 56 minutes a day in prayer;
- Somewhat satisfied average 43 minutes;
- Somewhat dissatisfied average 29 minutes
- Very dissatisfied average 21 minutes.

Mark 14:37 Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?"

38 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Most Christians long for a dynamic and fruitful prayer life. Yet, many find themselves defeated when it comes to their communication with God. If the average church member were to be asked how much time he or she spends in prayer, most would probably be too embarrassed to answer the question. That's not a criticism. Just a statement of fact. Yet, prayer holds the key to developing intimacy with God and consistency in our walk with Him.

"I struggle in my prayer life" is often the cry of believers. Many have told me, "Prayer has become a ritual to me" or "I have difficulty keeping a consistent prayer time." *The average Christian prays only three to four minutes per day*, and that's normally at meal times. But the normal Christian prayer life and the typical Christian prayer life are two completely different things.

Solution #2: Get up earlier!

Mark 1:35-39 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

36 And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him.

37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

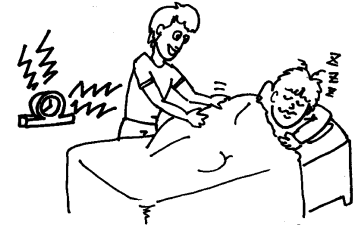
38 But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

39 And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.



The world is sleeping in the dark
 That the church just can't fight
 Cause it's asleep in the light
 How can you be so dead
 When you've been so well fed
 Jesus rose from the grave
 And you, you can't even get out of bed

Oh, Jesus rose from the dead
 Come on, get out of your bed



— Keith Green (Lyrics from "Asleep in the Light")

What is grace to one is law for another. Do what you know brings you victory and the Spirit of God prompts. I fall short and am aiming higher. I share this not as a law but an example of grace to inspire you.

Philippians 4:9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

What God has spoken to me:

- Do first things first!
- If you do it first it won't be taken away from you.
- Do the things daily that bring you victory

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

By God's Grace my
Personal Goal for:

Morning Schedule:

- 5:00-5:15: Wake up
- 5:15-6:15: Devotions
- 6:15-6:30: Read
- 6:30-6:45: Go to Gym
- 6:45-7:45: Workout
- 7:45-8:00: Back to home
- 8:00-8:30: Prepare for day



1 Corinthians 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (AMP)
But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].