



Sermon Outline  
October 15, 2017  
Pastor Bryan Myers

## Prayer Problems

**Psalm 13:1-6**

**There are many ways to express  
the problem of prayer:**

*"It feels like a one-way conversation."*

*"It doesn't seem to work."*

*"God takes too long to answer."*

*"God does what He wants anyway."*

**If we don't like praying it's because:**

- 1) We aren't sure that it does any \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) We've heard "testimonies" from others about prayer and there's no way our experience comes close to matching theirs.
- 3) We're afraid that God won't \_\_\_\_\_.

**Problem #1: \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Sooner or later, everyone who prays will experience difficult times when God seems hopelessly distant, when the act of prayer seems futile, or when it seems as if God is simply unwilling to answer your heartfelt prayers.*

**The purpose of prayer is not for God to  
\_\_\_\_\_ us, but for God to \_\_\_\_\_ us.**

**Problem #2: When God doesn't grant  
our sincere request, we want to know  
\_\_\_\_\_?**

*Between the two questions "Does God answer prayer?" and "Will God grant my specific prayer request?" lies a great pool of mystery.*

**What the Bible says impedes our prayers:**

- 1) Wrong \_\_\_\_\_ – Isaiah 59:1-2
- 2) Wrong \_\_\_\_\_ – James 4:3
- 3) Wrong \_\_\_\_\_ – 1 Peter 3:7

**What we don't know when  
prayers go unanswered:**

- 1) God's \_\_\_\_\_ plan and purpose.
- 2) God's \_\_\_\_\_ plan and purpose.

*"If you say: I believed in God, I trusted God, and He didn't come through - You only trusted God to meet your agenda."*  
- Tim Keller

**Problem #3: We try to do it right instead  
of just \_\_\_\_\_.**

*The very seriousness with which we take prayer becomes the reason we give up "serious" prayer.*

**Prayer is not a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Take-a-way for today:**

**Keep it \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Keep it honest.**

**Keep it \_\_\_\_\_.**