

Do I have to pray? Or, do I *get* to pray?

If your prayer life ever begins to seem less than satisfying, it may help to consider how you approach your daily prayers—as necessity or privilege?

It's easy for most of us to see prayer as a necessity—even requirement—as part of a daily quiet time, along with reading the Bible and perhaps a devotional book. We work to establish that as a daily routine, but if we're not careful, we may settle into a routine that comes with a mental checklist: So many people and concerns to pray about, one or more chapters of the Bible, a daily devotional. When we're rushed, we may slip into guilt as we go over that check list—did I pray enough? Did I read enough?

It will help us not to slip into that kind of thinking, if we'll focus on the real purpose and privilege of our prayer lives—to meet with the Creator of the Universe, our Savior and Redeemer, our Lord and our King. It will encourage us if we'll think of prayer as connecting with our Shepherd who is ready to lead us, our Counselor who is eager to guide us, our God who is willing for us to know Him in a personal way.

Prayer isn't something we have to do; it's something we *get* to do—it's a mindset that can give us a whole new approach to prayer.