

- Do we **approach God as a superior**? One who is in authority, and has power to grant what is asked? Do we actually expect an answer when we pray? Do we on the other hand presume that we know exactly what that answer should be and try to tell God what he should do instead of trusting him with the outcome?
- Do we **pray both on our own behalf, and on behalf of others**? Some people err in never praying for themselves, thinking that it is selfish. Others are too selfish and never pray for anyone but themselves.
- Do we **pray with particular concerns**? The Korean mega-church pastor David Yonggi Cho puts it this way: God only answers specific prayers.
- Do we **pray with a sense of emotional urgency**? That goes two directions: do we have genuine, deep concern for the things we pray about, or are we just talking into the air? To turn that observation around, when we care passionately about something, do we pray about it, or simply complain?
- Do we lace our prayers with **thanksgivings**? Do we thank God for the answers when they come? Before they come, do we thank God that he will answer?
- Are we **praying for our national and local leaders**? Not just formally here on Sunday, but in our own personal and household devotions? Just because we may disagree or even agree with their perspectives and actions doesn't mean we are exempt from praying for them. In our culture's democratic system God allows fallible human instrumentalities to select our leaders, but in the end it is he who has appointed them, and we need to pray for their wellbeing because at the end of the day it is he to whom they will have to give an account for how they have handled their trust.
- Are we **praying that all people may be saved and come to experiential knowledge of the truth**? Are we praying that prayer for specific people – especially for people who are neglected or looked down upon in some way?

In which of these ways might your own prayer life be more enriched?

What one practice might the Lord encourage you to work on adopting because of this list?