

Our prayers must be less "bless me" and more "bless them".

Me:

Preparing for student lesson on prayer

Thinking of the things I've prayed for in the past

A lot of selfish prayers, material things, "me" focused

We:

My students had similar answers, but don't we all?

We all want things, and Francis Chan put it best, asking "Are we in love with God or just His stuff?"

How do we change that? How do we desire more of God and who He is, especially in a world that tells us what we should want?

God:

Paul shared his prayer for the Ephesians in verses 16-23.

But what motivated these prayers? Verse 15 says it was their "faith and love of the saints".

They had a common ground. They were in community together!

Paul's prayer was for the Ephesians to know God deeper(17), to understand who they were(18b), to realize that their calling (18a) was dependent on their blessings and to experience His power.

In reminding them of who God is and who they are in Christ, Paul is reminded himself, and his relationship with God grows deeper.

That is the purpose of prayer, to know God more, and be changed because of it.

You:

So what does that mean?

Our prayers must be less "bless me" and more "bless them".

Notice I said "less". God still wants us to bring our requests to Him, but when we focus more on God and others in our prayers, we start to ask for the right things for ourselves, things that are in line with God's will for our lives.

Make prayer for others the first thing you do when you pray.

Seek out others to pray for/with.

Pray for those who you don't mesh with.

We:

God can do incredible things in our relationships and our lives as we begin to pray for others.

Broken friendships can be mended, new friendships can blossom.

Ministry opportunities will increase. (i.e. Telling someone you prayed for them)

Community increases, life change happens, God is glorified.

Our prayer life becomes like breathing. There's no effort, we just do it, and we do it right.