



Halftime: Part 3

Back in January, you probably had plans to make progress towards goals, which— if you're like most of us— have probably not been perfectly implemented over the past seven months. But just because your plan hasn't gone perfectly, doesn't mean the game is over. If we look at the calendar, we're only starting the second half; it's not too late to finish strong. But to do so, it's important to spend some time reflecting, refueling, assessing, and adjusting. What would happen if we prayed more in the second half of the year than we did in the first?

Start Talking

What is your single most commonly abandoned New Years resolution?

What are your earliest memories of prayer?

Have you ever seen somebody "show off" using public prayer? How?

Looking Back

1. Think back on the past week. Did your most successful days begin the night before?
2. What goals have you set for the last half of the year?
3. How did your first week working towards them go?
4. Did you share your goals with anyone who could keep you on track?

What About You?

5. Do you find regular prayer one of the easier or more difficult spiritual disciplines to implement into your daily life? Why?
6. What are your primary obstacles when it comes to regular prayer (these might be intellectual, logistical, or emotional)?
7. When does prayer seem to come easiest to you? When is it most difficult? Why?
8. Do you ever feel like your prayers just bounce off the ceiling and go nowhere?



Look It Up

Read the Following Passages: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Psalm 55:16,17, Luke 11: 1-4.

1. What do you think Paul meant when he penned the command to, "pray without ceasing?"
2. Why do you think Jesus places so much stress on locking yourself out of public view when you pray?
3. What is the significance of Jesus's choice to begin his exemplary prayer by praising God?
4. Many of us have repeated the "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven," line so often that it has become less meaningful than it might have been for its original audience. What do you think this phrase means? What does it require of us?
5. Do you find it significant that something as trivial as food is mentioned in the Lord's prayer?

Putting It All Together

1. What reminders have you implemented to help encourage you to continual, recurrent prayer this week?
2. How would the remaining months of the year differ from the preceding months if you prayed more recurrently throughout the day?
3. How can you be sure that you don't pray, "like the hypocrites," seeking public attention for your spirituality?
4. What changes can you implement into your prayer life in order to ensure that you always address what Jeff called, "the grind, the glory, and the grace?"

