



# JOURNEY *into* Deeper Prayer



## ***Likes or Alignment: What's Your Priority in Prayer?***

Read John 3:22-30

Listen to the Message 'Likes or Alignment: What's Your Priority in Prayer' (27<sup>th</sup> August 2023) at [www.elim.family/media](http://www.elim.family/media)



The key takeaways from the sermon are:

1. **Dependence on Man's Validation:** The common human desire to be noticed and validated by others, which can extend to the realm of prayer. Seeking validation from others in prayer can hinder a genuine connection with God. Instead prioritize receiving from heaven over seeking validation from people.
2. **Overcoming Insecurities:** Prayer is about connecting with God and not about impressing others. Insecurities about how prayers sound or who is impressed by them should be cast aside. Being genuine and open with God is more important than presenting a perfect image to others.
3. **Sacrificing the Ego:** Humility in prayer is important and recognizing that prayer is about aligning with God's will rather than imposing one's own will.

The overarching theme of the sermon is that prayer should be sacrificial – it should involve setting aside time, desires, and insecurities to approach God with an open heart. Sacrificial prayer leads to greater alignment with God's will and a more profound experience of His presence. We should approach prayer with sincerity, humility, and sacrifice, focusing on God's presence and will rather than on external validation or personal agendas.

### **Questions for reflection:**

1. Reflect on your recent prayer habits and attitudes. Have you found yourself seeking validation from others through your prayers? How might this affect the sincerity of your communication with God? Consider how you can shift your focus towards a more genuine and authentic prayer life.
2. Think about the insecurities or self-consciousness that might impact how you pray. Are there times when you hold back or present a polished version of yourself in prayer? Identify these areas and contemplate how you can overcome these barriers to have more open and heartfelt conversations with God.
3. Consider instances where your personal desires or ego have influenced your prayers. How can you intentionally surrender these aspects in your conversations with God? Reflect on the example of Jesus' humility and surrender, and explore practical steps to align your prayers with God's will instead of your own.