

**Examining the Scriptures
(Be Berean!)**

Luke 10:38-42; 18:1-8, 11:1-12, Joshua 9; Mat 6:1-15 esp. vs. 14-15,
Mark 11:25; Prov 5:21, Heb 4:13; James 4:1-10

**Consider & Discuss
(Be Transformed!)**

1. What excuses for prayerlessness that Carson discussed in the book have you (or those you know) employed? Did the Scriptures Carson appealed to provide good reason to render those excuses invalid? What should our response be when we find ourselves using those excuses for our own under-praying?
2. Why do you pray so little (in comparison to say Jesus or Paul)? What Scriptural insights validate or invalidate your reasoning? Are you rationalizing an excuse or responding to truth?
3. **Community Group Discussion: What is coming to light as we consider these excuses; i.e., what are some of the most seminal reasons why we should pray even though excuses for prayerlessness seem to abound?**

*Titles and Outline Headings from D. A. Carson's *Spiritual Reformation, Baker Book House, 1992.*

Community Life

- Nurture your prayer life in community!

Next Week: *Spiritual Reformation, Ch. 8, "Overcoming Hurdles"*;*
Philippians 1:9-11

Stone Harbor Church

203 Calle Del Oaks, Suite A, Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940
Worship Service - 9:30AM Sundays
831.655.5800
Mail: P.O. Box 4049, Monterey, CA 93942
www.stoneharborchurch.org

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"Excuses for Not Praying"

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,"

Rom 12:9-12, NASB

May 17, 2015

“Excuses for Not Praying”*
Spiritual Reformation, Chapter 7

- I. From D.A. Carson’s “A Call to Spiritual Reformation”*
 - A. “I Am Too Busy to Pray”
 - B. “I Feel Too Dry Spiritually to Pray”
 - C. “I Feel No Need to Pray”
 - D. “I Am Too Bitter to Pray”
 - E. “I Am Too Ashamed to Pray”
 - F. “I Am Content with Mediocrity”
- II. From My Own Experience
 - A. It Doesn’t Seem to Work
 - B. I Don’t Know How to Pray
 - C. I’m Not Convinced My Prayers Change Anything

What transformative truth is the Holy Spirit leading you to in this passage?