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## Lawler's "The corporate prayer challenge: 30 days to kickstart the change we need"

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# Book Reviews

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Lawler, H. (2020). *The corporate prayer challenge: 30 days to kickstart the change we need*. Salpizo Publications. 240pp. \$15.00. ISBN 9780578755304

In Howard Lawler's *The Corporate Prayer Challenge*, the church is encouraged to adopt regular, focused, group prayer into its rhythms. A 30-day challenge calls for collective repentance of both church leadership and attendees for neglect of corporate prayer and a consideration of practical justifications and tips for implementing a successful movement to group prayer.

Lawler's 30-day challenge moves through five sections. He begins by examining the current state of the North American evangelical church and proposes reasons for the lack of corporate prayer, namely the prevalence of individualism in the church. Lawler suggests obedience to the Word and proper worship requires it. "We do not have to want to pray corporately. We do not even have to like praying corporately ... but we do need to love by corporate prayer. If we do, one thing is sure. Jesus will love it" (94). Lawler continues with evidence from Scripture of corporate prayer in the early church, instruction on how to strengthen prayer life, and examples of how to get the church started with regular corporate prayer meetings.

Lawler speaks from almost four decades of pastoral ministry experience. His words reflect personal regret and deep conviction for not pursuing collective prayer time in previous ministries. He injects quite a bit of humor and writes metaphorically, perhaps, excessively. He also leans towards significant repetition and does not seem to separate preaching from instruction. His purpose is clear, however, to encourage the church to invest 30 days, reading a chapter a day, and to consider the relevance of praying intentionally, collectively, and regularly as a church body.

*The Corporate Prayer Challenge* provides a thorough argument worth considering and provides further supporting information with an appendix, end notes, and suggestions for further reading. While generally having a casual tone, it would be appropriate for pastors and other church leaders who are seeking ways to unite their church, to be a community influence, and to collectively draw closer to God through group prayer.

## Reviewer

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