

Persistent Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Has there been a time when you have considered giving up on your prayers answered. Are there a few of you who have given up, stopped praying or at least quit praying for certain things. There may have been times when we become discouraged and decide to quit praying. Then we begin to wonder if prayer really makes a difference. How do we keep going when we are told to be a persistent prayer warrior?

In the scripture (v. 1) Jesus begins by telling his disciples a parable. He knew that his followers would face opposition and would become discouraged as they shared His Word and waited for His return. We are given five wonderful reasons to never give up on prayer. I would like to share those reasons to never give up on prayer.

I. Being Persistent (v. 1-2)

Are there times when you think that your prayers are not being effective, therefore you just quit praying? Perhaps the question we should consider is “what happens when we give up?” There are two people in this parable. The first person we read about is a Judge.

The courtroom in the New Testament setting was not a building but a tent that was moved from place to place as the judge moved from place to place. The judge oversaw the agenda in

the court; he did not necessarily follow the written law. He was the law.

II. When You Feel Alone (v. 3)

The second person is a widow. As a widow she had several problems in her life. **First**, a widow was not allowed to stand before a judge. In the society of that day women were not allowed in court. The widows were a segment of society that was often oppressed and taken advantage of legally.

Second, because she was a widow, she did not have anyone to stand up for her in court. Also, being a widow and in poverty, she did not have the money to pay the court, even if she wanted to. As impossible as her situation must have seemed, she was persistent. (v. 3) says that she would come daily to the judge asking for justice.

She did not have another chose, but to come to the judge daily asking the judge to help her. That is what we should do, we ask God daily, asking Him to help us with our problems.

Do you see yourself praying to God daily, bringing him your petition and waiting for an answer?

III. God's Answer Is Just Around the Corner (v. 4-5)

Looking at (v. 4) the judge was tired of hearing the widow constantly coming to his court daily with her request. Can you just imagine how the judge is feeling by now? (v. 5) And what

he must be thinking? “This woman keeps bothering me on a daily basis, so I will have to decide on her request.” The judge finally decides to help her, not because he cared; but to get rid of her.

God never gets tired of His children asking something from Him.

IV. God Has an Answer (v. 7-8a)

God answers your prayers, but it may not be immediate. He is not denying your prayer; remember He wants the best for you and delaying an answer could be what He desires for you. Jesus is not comparing God to this judge. He wants us to see a point. The widow goes to the judge daily. We should also go to God daily. God is a caring Father; He does not lose His patience with us. He cares and will answer all our requests on His time. This poor widow was able to finally get the judge’s attention and receive an answer to her request. Our God does not need time. He already knows your request before you ask it. He cares for us, and He already knows what the answer is. Down through the centuries believers have struggled with understanding the silence of God to their prayers in (v. 8a) Jesus addresses that issue.

Here Jesus says that God answers all pleas of justice and does so quickly. So how are we to reconcile this promise with the fact that some prayers do not seem to be answered quickly? The

moment that God hears our request, if it is in his will, He begins to work out the answer. We may not see it now but one day the answer will come.

V. God Keeps His Promises (v.8b)

We must remain persistent in our prayers through faith. When we pray to God, we are showing Him that our faith in Him will endure from His answer. It may not be the answer we are expecting, but He knows what is best for us. Why does Jesus want us to be persistent in prayer? Because He wants us to keep our eyes on Him and trust Him with our requests. Our faithful prayers should bring us closer to God, and our prayers should not be just a ritual, they should be a serious conversation with God. When we finally receive an answer to our prayers there should be joy in our hearts.

Conclusion

What is your request? God is always available to hear it. It does not matter how big or small it may seem to you; our prayers are all the same in the eyes of God.

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PERSISTENT PRAYER - Luke 18:1-8....

1. Being Persistent (vv 1-20)

- a. When you think your prayers are not effective, don't quit
- b. Consider what happens when you do quit

2. When You Feel Alone (v 3)

- a. Seek God daily
- b. Wait for His answer

3. God's Answer is Just Around the Corner (vv 4-5)

- a. God cares for you
- b. God never gets tired of you asking

4. God Has an Answer (vv 7-8a)

- a. God wants the best for you
- b. God already knows what you are going to ask for
- c. God is already working on the answer to your prayer even before you ask

5. God Keeps His Promises (v 8b)

a. Show God your faith by waiting for His answer

b. Show God your joy when He does provide the answer

REMEMBER: GOD IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HEAR FROM YOU.