

Persistent Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Luke 18:1 tells us exactly why Jesus told this parable of the unjust judge

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not become discouraged. (NASB)

As He often did, Jesus used hyperbole,
that is, obvious and intentional exaggeration,
to make a point.

Imagine the most uncooperative, immovable person –
a local judge who had no fear of God and
no care for people whatsoever.

Imagine the weakest, most helpless of all people –
in that society, a poor widow.

Imagine that judge having no concern for the widow's need and
no intention of ever helping her.

But even then, the widow was so persistent that
the unjust judge eventually gave her justice,
purely to save himself from her continual pestering.

Remember, then, that unlike the unjust judge,
our loving God is eager to meet our needs.

And unlike the widow in the story,
we are so dear to Him that He eagerly listens to our every prayer.

There is absolutely no question, then, that He will
speedily,
justly

answer our prayers.

The real question is
not about His faithfulness,
but ours.

Will our faith endure as we await
His way and
His time?

Will we continue to
pray and
trust?

But ask yourself,
why do we have to wait at all?

Since He is so eager to answer our prayer,
why does He often make us wait?

In any relationship,
such as a marriage,
one of the biggest challenges is learning to live with
the inherent differences between the two parties,
between husband and wife.

That is so in our relationship with God as well.

We are
time-bound,
pain-sensitive,
narrow-visioned,
self-centered creatures.

God is
eternal,
all-powerful,
all-wise,
all-seeing, and
all-loving.

Every prayer request is filtered through
His perfect wisdom, and
His perfect love refuses to give us anything but
His very best
at just the right time.

Thus living in relationship with Him requires,
commitment,
enduring trust, and
enduring prayer.

Our Father wants prayer to be
our response to every need.

So as long as the need continues,
continue to pray, and
continue to trust Him.

Hymn: Persistent Prayer

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