

Being Persistent

Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

An Overview of the Passage

The parable was told because of the _____ story, which indicated that Jesus would not _____ immediately.

The _____ of the parable was to show us that we should "_____ pray and not give up."

This means that all prayers won't be answered _____.

Three Principles of Persistent Prayer

1. Keep on praying because sometimes answers are _____.

Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Luke 18: 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

God may answer your prayer _____ (or _____).

Luke 18:6 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.

God may answer your prayer _____.

Dan. 9:23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

God's delays are not God's _____.

Reasons for delays:

God may answer your prayer _____.

God may answer your prayer by saying _____.

James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "Prayer is a request. The essence of a request, as distinct from a demand, is that it may or may not be granted. And if an infinitely wise Being listens to the requests of finite and foolish creatures, of course He will sometimes grant them and sometimes refuse them...If God had granted all the silly prayers I've made in my life, where should I be now?"

2. Keep on praying because perseverance in prayer is the key to _____.

The woman in the story is a _____.

She had no _____.

She had no _____ to speak for her.

She had no _____.

Her only recourse was _____!

We, as Christians are _____ this woman!

1Th. 5:17 pray continually;

Eph. 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

3. Keep on praying because you are _____ to God.

The picture that we are to see is this:

The Judge	Our Heavenly Father
_____	_____ for justness
Without _____	_____ of faith
Without _____	_____ with compassion
Didn't _____ that he didn't _____	He _____ for you.

If a non-caring judge will provide an _____ to a "nobody" who is persistent, how much _____ will a loving Father respond to His children!

4. Keep on praying because it _____ your _____.

Luke 18:8 . . . However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Jude 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

What Have You Learned Today that Will Make a Difference?