

Never give up

Shofar Table View

13th August 2017

NEVER
GIVE UP!



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Never give up- praying

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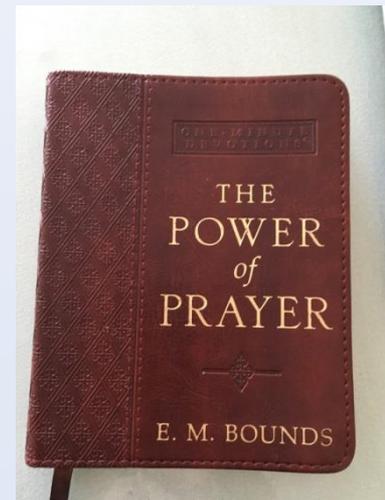
The Parable of the Persistent Widow

- **Luke 18 (NIV)**
- 18 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 what people thought. 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 what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”
- 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?”

The Twins: Prayer and Faith

EM Bounds

- Faith is always praying; prayer is always believing
- Prayer asks; faith lays its hand on the thing asked for
- Prayer is the key; faith turns the key and opens the door



Keep Asking, Seeking, Knocking

- ⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
- ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (Matt 7; NKJV)

What is persistent prayer

- Persistent prayer does not mean physical violence or fleshly energy.
- It is an inward force planted and inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit supplies us with the energy to continue praying until the blessing descend.

Praying always in the Spirit with all perseverance

- ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ *praying always* with all prayer and supplication *in the Spirit*, being watchful to this end *with all perseverance* and supplication for all the saints— (Ephesians 6;NKJV)

Praying “in the Spirit”

- All prayer directed, energized and sustained by the Holy Spirit
 - According to God’s will
 - Is based upon God’s character and Word
 - Comes from a clean heart
 - Is prayed in full assurance of faith
 - Is asked in Jesus name
 - Will glorify God



Perseverance is NOT obstinacy

- Persistent prayer is not a means of coercing God to do what we want. It is a *process of hearing His voice and recognizing His power* and plan for our lives.
- In prayer we yield our lives and circumstances to the Lord and trust Him to act in *His time and in His way*.
- As we rely on *God's grace* not only for the *outcome of our requests but for the process as well*.

God hear and respond even though we don't see any immediate results...

⁶ In my distress I screamed to the Lord for his help. And he heard me from heaven;^[a] my cry reached his ears. ¹¹ *He enshrouded himself with darkness, veiling his approach with dense clouds dark as murky waters.* ¹² *Suddenly the brilliance of his presence broke through the clouds with lightning^[e] and a mighty storm of hail.*

(Psalm 18;TLB)

Persistent prayer answered- example from scripture

- ²¹ Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”
- ²³ But He answered her not a word.
- And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.”
- ²⁴ But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
- ²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”
- ²⁶ But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw *it* to the little dogs.”
- ²⁷ And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”
- ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (Matt 15 NKJV)

Other examples of persistent prayer being answered

- [George Muller of Bristol](#) whose life story remains a powerful testament to the virtue of persistence in prayer. Near the end of his life, he confided to a friend that he had been praying for two men to come to Christ for over fifty years. When the friend wondered why he continued to pray, Muller replied that if God had given such a burden, surely it was because he intended to save those two men. It came to pass that one man came to Christ shortly before Muller died, and the other came to Christ shortly after his death.

How do we change during the journey of persistent prayer?

1. Growth in holiness

1. ³ Who may climb the mountain of the Lord and enter where he lives? Who may stand before the Lord? ⁴ Only those with pure hands and hearts, who do not practice dishonesty and lying. ⁵ They will receive God's own goodness^[b] as their blessing from him, planted in their lives by God himself, their Savior. (Psalm 24)

2. Growth in faith

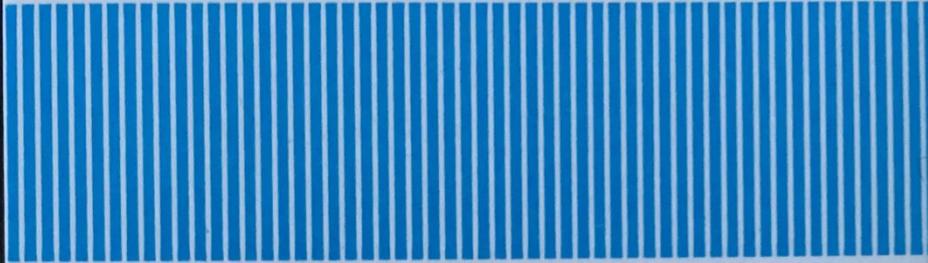
- ²⁰ But Abraham never doubted. He believed God, *for his faith and trust grew ever stronger*, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. ²¹ He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything he promised. (Romans 4; NLT)

3. Growth in character

- ³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. ⁴ And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.
- ⁵ Then, when that happens, we are able to hold our heads high no matter what happens and know that all is well, for we know how dearly God loves us, and we feel this warm love everywhere within us because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. (Romans 5; NLT)

Let

list



Ten most wanted

Therefore I want the men in every place to pray....

1 Timothy 2:8

1

2

3

4

5

6

How does God answer prayer

- ²⁰ Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3; Amplified)

When our prayers are not *yet* answered

- To you, O Lord, I pray. ² Don't fail me, Lord, for I am trusting you. Don't let my enemies succeed. Don't give them victory over me. ³ *None of those who have faith in God will ever be disgraced for trusting him.*
- ⁶⁻⁷ Overlook my youthful sins, O Lord! *Look at me instead through eyes of mercy and forgiveness, through eyes of everlasting love and kindness. (Psalm 25 TLB)*



What are you praying for right now?

- Salvation for friends and family members
- Victory over a stubborn habit?
- Wisdom to make a big decision?
- A mate?
- A marriage on the rocks?
- A deeper walk with God?
- Hope for the future?
- Money to pay your bills?
- Physical healing?
- A friend in deep need?
- Boldness to share Christ?