

Avails Much 6: Pray Until It Goes In Your Favor

Dr. John Carmichael

[Luk 18:1-8 NASB95] 1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

- In a world filled with distractions, discouragement, and delays, this passage reminds us that God is faithful to answer the prayers of those who do not give up. We are not to faint, to lose heart, or to be swayed by the seeming silence of God. Today, we will discover how persistent prayer is not just about asking but about a deep spiritual stance of faith and perseverance.
- In the parable of the persistent widow, Jesus teaches us a powerful lesson about prayer; specifically, about the persistence that ought to mark the lives of His followers in their communication with God.

What do we need to know about praying until it goes in our favor?

Here are four aspects of persistence that we need to pray until it goes in our favor.

I. The Necessity of Persistent Prayer (Luke 18:1)

- a. [Luk 18:1 NASB95] 1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,
- b. Jesus begins by emphasizing the necessity of constant prayer. This is not a call to a sporadic or occasional prayer life, but an unrelenting dedication to stay connected to God in every moment.
- c. The widow's persistence was not an act of desperation; it was a deep acknowledgment that God is our only hope. She never gave up, not because she was powerful, but because she trusted in God's justice and faithfulness.
- d. [1Th 5:17 NASB95] 17 pray without ceasing;
- e. Are you feeling weary in prayer? Do you feel like giving up because God hasn't answered yet? Don't lose heart! Keep praying, not because of your own strength, but because you know that God is able and faithful. **Every prayer you offer is a step closer to breakthrough.**

II. The Power of Faithful Persistence (Luke 18:2-5)

- a. [Luk 18:2-5 NASB95] 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" b. The unjust judge in this parable represents someone who is indifferent to the widow's cries. Yet, her faithful persistence wore him down. How much more will a just, loving, and faithful God answer the persistent prayers of His children? This parable illustrates that persistent faith moves the heart of God even when circumstances seem unchangeable.

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- c. [Heb 11:6 NASB95] 6 And without faith it is impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is and [that] He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- d. Do you ever feel that your prayers aren't reaching heaven? God listens, and He responds to faith-filled persistence. When we refuse to give up, we move God's heart. Your faith can open doors that resistance and opposition cannot shut.

III. The Reward of God's Righteous Judgment (Luke 18:6-8)

- a. [Luk 18:6-8 NASB95] 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"
- b. The widow's persistence was met with justice from an unrighteous judge. Jesus emphasizes that God will bring justice to His chosen ones, quickly and surely. The reward of persistent prayer is not only an answer to our requests but also a deepening relationship with the One who is always faithful.
- c. [Rom 8:32 NASB95] 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?
- d. God will vindicate you. He will right every wrong, and He will do so swiftly when the time is right. Trust in His timing. Don't give up! Your persistence in prayer is not in vain, for God is always at work behind the scenes on your behalf.

IV. The Call to Faithful Persistence (Luke 18:8)

- a. [Luk 18:8 NASB95] 8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"
- b. Jesus ends with a powerful question: Will He find faith? Will He find a people who have persevered in prayer, trusting that He will answer in His time and in His way? The measure of our persistence is not just the volume of our requests but the depth of our faith in God's character.
- c. [Jas 5:16 NASB95] 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
- d. Let this be a moment of self-reflection. Is your faith active and persistent? Do you keep praying, even when circumstances suggest otherwise? Now is the time to build your faith in persistent prayer that will move mountains. Faith does not give up. It presses in, no matter how long the journey takes.

- **Persistent prayer fuels faith, overcomes the enemy's attacks, and compels God to move on behalf of His people.**
- **God is a just Judge who rewards the persistent prayers of His people. The widow's determination is a model for us to follow. We are not called to a passive prayer life, but one marked by fervency and trust. Your persistent prayer is building something eternal.**
- **God is calling you to persevere, to keep praying with faith, even when it feels like nothing is happening. His justice is coming, and your persistence will be rewarded.**
- **Ask for a fresh anointing to pray without ceasing, to press in with persistence, and to remain steadfast no matter the delay.**