

The Parables of Persistent Prayer

March 23, 2017

Luke 11:5-13 NASB

5 Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him';

7 and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'

8 **"I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs."**

9 **"So I say to you, ask ("keep asking" aiteo - ask, call for, crave, desire), and it will be given to you; seek ("keep seeking" zeteo - to seek in order to find, strive after), and you will find; knock ("keep knocking" rouo - knock), and it will be opened to you."**

10 **"For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened."**

11 "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

12 "Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

13 **"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"**

- **Ask - Seek - Knock**

- *persistent prayer that doesn't give until we have either the answer or further guidance and wisdom from God*
- *persistent prayer which increases in intensity*
- *by the third time (1. ask 2. seek 3. knock) in prayer, both Jesus and Paul received the answer to what they were seeking, not to say that 3 times is the limit*
- *the example of Jesus*

Mark 8:22-25 NASB

22 And they came to Bethsaida. And they brought a blind man to Jesus and implored Him to touch him.

23 Taking the blind man by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, "Do you see anything?"

24 And he looked up and said, "I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around."

25 Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly.

- **Our Heavenly Father is neither reluctant or slow to respond, but finds great pleasure in giving His children the Kingdom. “...how much more will your heavenly Father give...”**

Luke 12:32 NASB

32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom."

Luke 18:1-8 NASB

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?"

Why the Need for Persistent Prayer?

1. God's Timing

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 RSV

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.

Acts 1:6-8 NASB

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, "**Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?**"

7 He said to them, "**It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;**"

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

2 Peter 3:8-9 RSV

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2. God's Will, Plans & Purposes

Matthew 26:36-44 NASB

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "**So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?**"

41 "**Keep watching and praying** that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 **He went away again a second time and prayed**, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

43 Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44 And He left them again, and **went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.**

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 NASB

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

8 **Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.**

9 **And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."** Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

James 1:5-8 NASB

5 **But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

3. The Correction of our Hearts and Motives

James 4:3 NASB

3 **You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

Psalm 73:21-22 NASB

21 When my heart was embittered And I was pierced within,
22 Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.

Psalm 73:16-17 NASB

16 When I pondered to understand this, It was troublesome in my sight
17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

John 14:13-14 NASB

13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."
14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

1 John 5:14-15 NASB

14 **This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**
15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

4. Spiritual Warfare

Daniel 10:10-14 NASB

10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.
11 He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.
12 Then he said to me, "**Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.**"
13 "**But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.**"
14 "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."

Ephesians 6:12 NASB

12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**