

## Prayer's Ultimate Purpose

June 7, 2018

Luke 18:1 ESV

1 And he told them a parable TO THE EFFECT that they ought ALWAYS TO PRAY and NOT LOSE HEART (*ekkakeo* - discouraged, give up, grow weary, exhausted).

Hebrews 10:35-39 ESV

35 Therefore do not throw away (*apoballo* - to throw without caring where it falls) your confidence, which has a great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay;

38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

## 5 Reasons to Never Give Up in Prayer

1. **God is working even when we see no natural indications** - *God's Word is our vision.*

2 Kings 6:17 ESV

17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV

7 for we walk (*peripateō* - to regulate one's life, to conduct one's self) by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 4:18 ESV

18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2. **There is nothing impossible with God** - *never exalt the circumstances, this world or other people above God.*

Jeremiah 32:17 ESV

17 Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

3. **God does not work according to our expectations or plans** - *His ways and methods are incomprehensible, never predictable and many times seem contradictory.*

*We can become discouraged, weary and give up in prayer if we presume to think that we know how God will accomplish His will and answer our prayers.*

Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

4. God gives the grace, the strength, the patience and the contentment to wait for our prayers to be answered, every time without fail.

Isaiah 40:31 ESV

31 but they who wait (*qavah* - wait, patiently tarry, look for, hope, expect) for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Romans 4:19-21 ESV

19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

5. God's timing is perfect.

Genesis 18:14 ESV

14 At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

Psalms 75:2-3 ESV

2 At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity.

Galatians 4:4 ESV

4 But when the fullness (*plērōma* - that which has been filled, completeness of time) of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

Galatians 6:9 ESV

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Romans 5:6 ESV

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time (*kairos* - proper time, due measure, opportune time, to what time brings) Christ died for the ungodly.

Habakkuk 2:3 ESV

3 For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end--it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 ESV

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

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

**Genesis 40:14-23** ESV

14 Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.

15 For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit."

23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

**Acts 1:4-9** ESV

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed (*tithēmi* - appoint, fix, establish, ordain) by his own authority."

**Lamentations 3:25-26** ESV

25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

**Prayer's Ultimate Purpose** - *is a wholly surrendered communion with God, where He is all we need and the fulfillment of all our desires.*

**John 6:24-35** ESV

24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

26 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

- Jesus was telling the crowds that they should be seeking Him for Who He is, not to selfishly get what they want.

**John 10:37-38** ESV

37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me;

38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.

**Acts 2:22** ESV

22 Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested (*apodeiknymi* - prove, demonstrate, declare, show) to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.

**John 5:36** ESV

36 For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

**John 3:2** ESV

2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

**John 6:24-35 ESV**

27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."

28 Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?"

31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

- Because they weren't seeking Him for Him, but to get what they wanted, He didn't give them what they were asking for.
- There are times Jesus will withhold answering prayer if we want what we are asking for, more than we want Him.

**Luke 10:38-42 ESV**

38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.

40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."

41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things,

42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

- Jesus didn't grant Martha's request because getting what she thought she needed was more important to her than sitting at Jesus' feet.

**James 4:3 ESV**

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

**Psalm 27:2-5 ESV**

2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.