

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Throughout His ministry, Christ made it clear that importunity is a distinguishing characteristic of true praying. We must not only pray, but we must also pray with great urgency, with intensity, and with repetition. We must not only pray, but we must pray again and again. We must not get tired of praying. We must be through earnest, deeply concerned about the things for which we ask, for Jesus Christ made it very plain that the secret of prayer and its success lie in its urgency. We must press our prayers upon God.

“ And he spoke a parable unto to them to this end, that men ought to always pray, and not to faint; saying, there was in a city a judge which feared God, neither regarded man: and there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth” (Luke 18: 1-8)

There is no stronger case to show how our unwearied and deathless prayer gains its ends where everything else fails. He knew that men would soon grow fainthearted in praying so, to encourage us, He gives u this picture of the marvelous power of persistence in prayer.

The Bible recounts many examples of persistence in prayer:

- The man who goes to a friend for a loan of a few loaves of bread (Luke 11:5-10)
- The Syrophenician woman (Mark 7:24-30)
- Jesus lesson in the Sermon on the Mountain (Matt. 7:7)
- The all night prayers and wrestling of Jacob (Gen. 32:24-28)
- Elijah’s prayers for rain (James 5:17-18, 1 Kings 18:41-44)
- Christ’s prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-41)

Without persistence, prayers may go unanswered. Importunity is made up of the ability to hold on, to continue, to wait with un-relaxed and un-relaxable grasp, restless desire, and restful patience. Importunate prayer is not an incidental occurrence, but the main thing; not a performance, but a passion; not an option, but a necessity.

God loves the importunate pleader, and sends him answers that would never have been granted but for the persistence that refuses to let go until the petition craved for is granted.