

HOW OFTEN DO WE PRAY?

LUKE 18:1-8

1-21-24

Recognizing who God is will help us to persistently pray to Him.

I. WE ARE CALLED TO PRAY PERSISTENTLY

1. The Widow Was Persistent in Her Request

Luke 18:1-3 – “And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’”

Ephesians 6:18 – “...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...”

2. Persistent Prayer Communicates Our Faith in God

Luke 18:8 – “I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

~ **When we pray to God, we are praying to the only One who is in complete control.**

II. WE CAN TAKE COMFORT IN WHO GOD IS

1. The Judge Was an Unjust Man

Luke 18:4-5 – “For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”

~ **He did not fear God or man.**

2. We Pray to a Just God

Luke 18: 6-8 – “And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’”

~ **God cares deeply about His people.**

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in the message?
2. What would it look like for us to be persistent in our prayer life?
3. According to this passage, why should we not lose heart in praying to God?
4. Why is it so easy for us to stop praying for things in our life?
5. We see God's character contrasted with that of the unrighteous judge. Which of God's attributes comfort you as you bring your requests before Him?
6. In verse 8, why does Jesus ask, "Will He find faith on earth?" How is persistent prayer related to faith?
7. Read 2 Peter 3:9. While this passage is specifically speaking about salvation, how can this passage give us perspective to God's timetable in regard to our prayers?
8. Are there any specific changes that need to happen in your prayer life to encourage persistence? How can your C-Group encourage you in this?