

HAPPY 2022

Luke 18:1 (NIV) “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

Luke 18:2-3 (NIV) “He said: ‘In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’”

Luke 18:4-5 (NIV) “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’”

Luke 18:6-8_a (NIV) “And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.’”

What motivates me to persist in prayer when I'm ready to give up?

1st - God told me to persist. I'm just doing what He told me to do. So praying persistently is an act of obedience.

Luke 11:5-8 (NIV) “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.”

2nd - Prayer draws me closer to a God who loves me and wants the best for me. Prayer is more than getting stuff I want. It's a relationship.

Luke 11:9-13 (NIV) “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹‘Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’”

Psalms 34:15 (NIV) “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry . . .”

3rd – I never know the day I'm going to wake up to a miracle. So I seek to live with expectancy. I know God's delays are not God's denials.

Psalms 5:3 (NIV) “In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.”

Ephesians 3:20 (NIV) “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”