

Day 1: The Power of Persistent Prayer

Reading: James 5:13–18

“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” —James 5:16b (ESV)

Devotional:

Persistence in prayer isn't easy. There are seasons—even now—when I wrestle with staying faithful in prayer when answers don't come quickly. But sometimes, God gives you a glimpse of what persistent prayer can do.

When my oldest daughter, Meegan, was born, she had two significant holes in her heart (an ASD and a VSD). The doctors monitored her closely for years. We prayed, but I'll be honest—being still young in my faith, I struggled to believe my prayers would matter.

Meanwhile, Miss Dorcas, the children's church director, prayed diligently for Meegan—without my even knowing. She prayed when I was weak, when my faith flickered, when my prayers stumbled out of fear more than faith.

At her final appointment, the doctor was stunned. What he thought impossible had happened: Meegan's heart was completely healed. Not “good enough.” Not “stable.” Healed.

That moment changed me. It showed me that persistent prayer isn't about getting it right every time. It's about continuing to come back to the God who *is* right every time. It's about trusting that He's working, even when we don't see it yet.

Elijah prayed and the rain stopped—and then prayed again, and it returned. It wasn't because Elijah was a superhero. It was because he kept bringing it to God.

I still struggle with persistence. But the Bible, the prayers of people like Miss Dorcas, and stories like Meegan's healing remind me: **faithful prayer is powerful because it connects us to a faithful God.**

Reflection:

- Is there a situation you need to bring back to God today?
 - Who in your life might be strengthened by your persistent prayers?
 - What would it look like for you to pray boldly even when you don't see immediate results?
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Prayer:

Father, thank You that You hear me even when my prayers are weak or wavering. Thank You for Your faithfulness that does not depend on mine. Teach me to pray persistently. Teach me to trust that even when I don't see movement, You are at work. Strengthen my faith, and make me a faithful intercessor for those who need Your touch. In Jesus' name, Amen.