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REDEMPTION
CITY CHURCH

Abiding In Prayer
Luke 18:1–17



STICKY STATEMENT: ***The Lord doesn't need more helpful Christians — He needs more helpless ones.***

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7)

Prayer isn't usually born out of comfort; it's born when our self-reliance runs out. "We pray best when we are fallen on our faces in painful helplessness." — Charles Spurgeon

"Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress." (Ps. 107:13)

TO ABIDE IN PRAYER, WE MUST REMAIN...

1. _____ IN PRAYER. (Luke 18:1–8)

"Jesus told a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."

An unjust judge gave a powerless widow justice — not out of goodness, but because of her persistence.

My persistence isn't driving God's goodness — God's goodness is driving my persistence.

My cries aren't for God to show up.
They're because He already has.

God isn't asking for perfection; He's asking for persistence.

> THIS WEEK: Start every morning going to God about who you need Him to be for you. Keep the conversation going until your day ends.

2. _____ IN PRAYER. (Luke 18:9–14)

"The Pharisee prayed about how good he was for God. The tax collector couldn't lift his eyes and prayed, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner" — and went home justified."

Self-righteousness isn't a prayer — it's a résumé.

PRIDE says, "Look at all I've done for God." HUMILITY says, "Look at all God's done for me."

Pride is focused on **works**. Humility is focused on **faith**.

> THIS WEEK: As your day goes on, thank God for what He has been. Remember where you were and where you are now — *because of Him*.

3. _____ IN PRAYER. (Luke 18:15–17)

In Jesus' day, children had low status and nothing to offer. The disciples, wrapped up in trying to be helpful, saw them as a bother.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me… for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

THE KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS TO… the lowly • those with nothing to offer • the powerless • the helpless

Your value isn't based on what you do for Him; it's based on what He's done for you.

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:6–8)

God did not die for us at our worst so that we could pretend to be at our best.

> THIS WEEK: Have honest prayer with God. Like a child, the only expectation is to come as you are.

DO THE WORD — PSALM 34:8 *"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"*

Q: What do you cry out to first when you wake up (your phone, the gym, a drink, a relationship)? Q: What would it look like to start this week crying out to God instead? Q: Do your prayers sound more like the Pharisee's résumé or the tax collector's plea? Q: Where are you trying to be helpful to God instead of helpless before Him?