



Pastor Mason Phillips| August 23, 2026

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Day 1: The Posture of Humility

Devotional: Elijah did not storm into God's presence with demands. He bowed low, face between his knees, and waited. Humility is not weakness -- it is the posture that opens the channel of grace. Scripture is clear that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Before you bring your requests today, pause and consider who you are approaching. The God of all creation invites you near, not because you have earned it, but because you belong to him. Let worship precede your words. Let awe shape your asking. Humble yourself, and watch grace come rushing in.

Reading:

Psalm 100:1-5 NKJV

A Psalm of Thanksgiving.

Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness;

Come before His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord, He is God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

For the Lord is good;

His mercy is everlasting,

And His truth endures to all generations.

James 4:6-10 NKJV

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud,

But gives grace to the humble.”

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Personal Reflection: In what areas of your prayer life have you approached God with pride or impatience rather than humble trust?

Practical Application: Before praying today, spend five minutes in worship. Acknowledge who God is before presenting what you need.

Day 2: Prayers That Accumulate

Devotional: Cornelius prayed consistently, gave generously, and served faithfully -- and one day an angel declared that his prayers and offerings had risen as a memorial before God. Nothing was wasted. Not one prayer had fallen to the ground unheard. God was keeping record. This is the encouragement for every believer who has grown weary in prayer. Your prayers are not disappearing into silence. They are accumulating before a God who sees, remembers, and responds in his perfect timing. Jesus taught the parable of the persistent widow precisely because the temptation to lose heart is real. Do not quit. Keep coming. Your jar is filling.

Reading:

Acts 10:1-4 NKJV

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

Luke 18:1-8 NKJV

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'

"And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

Then the Lords said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"

I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Personal Reflection: Have you ever stopped praying for something because it felt like nothing was happening? What would it mean to trust that those prayers were never lost?

Practical Application: Write down one prayer request you have given up on. Bring it before God again today, trusting that he has not forgotten it.

Day 3: Pray Until You Get a Response

Devotional: Seven times Elijah sent his servant to look toward the sea. Six times the report came back empty. He prayed again. Jacob wrestled through the entire night and refused to release his grip until a blessing came. Daniel fasted and prayed for twenty-one days before the answer broke through. The pattern of Scripture is unmistakable: persistent prayer is not a sign of weak faith -- it is the very expression of it. God is not annoyed by your returning. He is honored by it. Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking. The answer may be one prayer away from arriving.

Reading:

1 Kings 18:41-45 NKJV

Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'" Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

Genesis 32:24-29 NKJV

Then Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

Personal Reflection: What has caused you to stop praying for something before receiving an answer -- fear, discouragement, or the belief that more prayer signals unbelief?

Practical Application: Choose one significant need in your life and commit to praying over it daily for the next seven days, keeping a simple journal of what you observe.

Day 4: Receiving God's Answer in Faith

Devotional: God always answers prayer. Sometimes the answer is yes. Sometimes it is not yet. Sometimes it is no -- and his no is protection, not rejection. Whatever the response, faith does not stop at receiving the answer. Faith responds to it. Paul pleaded three times for his thorn to be removed. God said no and offered grace instead. Paul did not collapse in disappointment -- he boasted in his weakness because the power of Christ rested on him. The reward of persistent prayer is not always what you expected, but it is always what you need. Receive his answer. Respond in faith. Move forward.

Reading:

James 2:18-24 NKJV

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe— and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Issaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 NKJV

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn I the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Personal Reflection: Have you ever received an answer from God -- even a difficult one -- and failed to respond to it? What would responding in faith look like in that situation?

Practical Application: Reflect on a prayer God has already answered. Identify one concrete step of faith you can take this week in response to that answer.

Day 5: Faith That Pleases God

Devotional: Hebrews 11:6 draws a direct connection between persistent prayer and the pleasure of God. To come to him is an act of faith. To keep coming is an act of deep faith. To believe that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him is to trust not only his power but his character. Jesus closed the parable of the persistent widow with a searching question: when the Son of Man returns, will he find this kind of faith on the earth? That question is directed at you today. Will you be found still praying, still trusting, still believing? Persistent prayer is not just a discipline -- it is a declaration that God is worth returning to, again and again and again.

Reading:

Hebrews 11:1-6 NKJV

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Luke 18:7-8 NKJV

"And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Romans 8:28 NKJV

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Personal Reflection: If Jesus returned today, would he find you faithfully persisting in prayer, or would he find you discouraged and silent?

Practical Application: Establish a consistent daily prayer time this week. Begin each session by declaring aloud that God is faithful, that he hears, and that he rewards those who seek him.