



Part 1: Perseverance in Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

As followers of Jesus, may we confidently persist in prayer, knowing that we pray to a Father who is CARING and JUST – seeing that life will have the final word.

OUR IMAGE OF GOD RADICALLY AFFECTS OUR ABILITY TO PRAY

WE ARE CALLED TO PRAY AND NEVER GIVE UP

Dallas Willard captures the heart of what it means to pray and never give up with his simple yet true definition of prayer: talking to God about what we are doing together.

A vital question: How are we to persist in praying to God when all the data points around us show that nothing is changing?

Parable is an “earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

UNLIKE THE WIDOW, WE HAVE SPIRITUAL POWER AND AUTHORITY THROUGH PRAYER

This style of parable is called a “how much more.”

How do you view yourself in relationship to God?

UNLIKE THE JUDGE, GOD IS DEEPLY CARING

Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane illustrates this parable in action. In suffering, Christ persists in prayer because he knows he is talking to his father in heaven who deeply cares.

UNLIKE THE JUDGE, GOD IS JUST

Justice is fulfilled in the ultimate defeat of death.

- *“I have come to realize the greatest enemy we face is death itself, which claims everyone and everything. No miracle can ultimately save us from it. A miracle is only a temporary solution. We really need more than a miracle...” Jerry Sittser, A Grace Disguised*
- Death does not have the final word, life does.

As followers of Jesus, we can confidently persist in prayer, knowing that we pray to a Father who is CARING and JUST – guaranteeing that life will have the final word.

May we be a church that builds up one another’s faith through prayer.