

THE PARABLES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
THE PARABLE OF THE PLEADING WIDOW
LUKE 18: 1-8

William D. Watley, New Seasons Press, All Rights Reserved.

Major Point of the Parable: Even in the kingdom of God persistence is necessary.

Other Lessons:

What the Parable is Not Saying

God is some stingy deity with whom we must struggle to secure blessings

If God wants to bless us then why must we persist in prayer?

Why Persistence in Prayer?

Sometimes what we look upon as struggle is simply work. We are victims of lazy faith.

Examples: Name it and Claim it Theology; Praise Automatically Unlocks All Doors

Sometimes we are naïve about the power of real strongholds.

Sometimes we are naïve about the determination of evil to keep what it has claimed.

Sometimes we need to demonstrate how much we really want some things to happen.

Some Things in This World Are Accomplished by Persistence Alone

Sometimes rightness or wrongness of cause has nothing to do with victory or success. Some things are accomplished by persistence alone.

Sometimes the children of this world who are not relying upon higher power can accomplish more than children of faith because they are willing to work harder while children of faith rely too much on prayer and on God alone, rather than on their own efforts plus God's guidance and power.

This Parable Challenges Us to Examine Prayer

What Prayer is Not

- Prayer is not a last resort
- Prayer is not always asking
- Prayer is not an automatic answer to wish lists
- Prayer is not leaving everything to God
- Prayer is not insurance
- Prayer is not giving direction to God
- Prayer is not ritual or routine

What Prayer Is

Prayer is Relational: ACTS---Adoration; Confession; Thanksgiving; Supplication

Prayer is Partnership

Guidance Before Action

Direction and Empowerment During Action

Strength for Major Battles and Enduring Warfare

Prayer is Faith

Persistence and perseverance in prayer is no guarantee of preferred answer
Faith declares that even when the answer is “No!” we still trust the will,
character and integrity of God.

Key to Kingdom Victory and Success:

Work as if everything depends upon us/Pray as if everything depends upon God.

Work is no substitute for prayer and prayer is no substitute for work.

Prayer and work and work and prayer will always produce results. Even when those results are not what we desire, we trust the move of God even when we cannot trace them because God still has a plan for our lives that is greater than any plan we can have for ourselves or that others can have for us.