

“Don’t Give Up!”

Luke 11: 9-13; 18:1-8

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Children learn how to manipulate parents to get what they want.
- Adults employ same tactics
- Persistence can be a good thing
- Objections to being “persistent” with God in prayer
- Dependent, desperate people pray—review of the Jesus’ seminar
 - Hebrews 4:16-- *“come boldly before the throne of grace so that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Dependent, Desperate People Don’t Give Up!

A. The Principled Promises!—

- Luke 11:9-10-- *“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”*
1. **The Principle of Persistent Prayer**
 - a. Asking—implies humility, consciousness of need, and faith
 - James 4:2b-- *“You do not have because you do not ask God!”*
 - b. Seeking—is asking plus acting. Involves action on our part
 - Psalm 105:4-- *“Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!”*
 - Jeremiah 29:12-13-- *“Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”*
 - c. Knocking—involves asking plus acting plus persevering
 - Romans 12:12-- *“rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.”*
 - Ephesians 6:18-- *“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”*
 - Colossians 4:2 -- *“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.”*
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17--*“pray without ceasing”*
 2. **The Promise of Persistent Prayer**
 - a. A corresponding response--v. 9
 - 1) Not always what we ask for
 - James 4:3-- *“You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”*
 - 2) Always according to God’s will
 - 1 John 5:14-15-- *“ this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”*
 - b. Promise repeated—v. 10 The GUARANTEE!
 - Mark 11:24-- *“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive , and you will have them.”*

B. The Parable of the UNJUST JUDGE

- Luke 18:1-8-- *“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 Lord 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?"

1. **The Set-Up:** The "Should" of Persevering Prayer
2. **The Story**
 - a. Meet the Unjust Judge—v. 2,
 - Exodus 22:22-23-- "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry."
 - Psalm 68:5-- "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows"
 - b. Meet the Helpless Widow—v. 3
 - c. See the Judge cave to the unrelenting badgering of this widow
3. **Jesus' point:** *"The squeaky wheel gets the oil!"*

C. The Pay Off: *God answers persistent prayer!*

1. **As the "righteous" Judge, God will vindicate his chosen ones**
 - Luke 18:6-8-- "Then the Lord 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?"
 - a. The Request of his disciples—"Your kingdom Come"
 - b. Prayer of the apostles and martyrs
 - Acts 1:6-- "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
 - Acts 1:7-- "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."
 - Acts 1:8-- , "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..."
 - Revelation 6:9-11-- "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."
 - c. Reason for delay
 - 2 Peter 3:9-- "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."
 - d. One day, God will answer the request in Christ's second coming.
2. **As a compassionate, heavenly Father, God delights in giving the very BEST to his children.**
 - Luke 11: 11-13-- "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
 - a. As earthly fathers, we would not think of giving our children what would DEFILE them or DECEIVE or HARM them
 - b. Similarities and Differences between earthly and heavenly Father
 - c. God delights in giving us the very BEST—the Holy Spirit
 - d. The need for faith
 - Luke 18:8-- "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man come, will he really find faith on the earth?"