

Kingdom Stories: Parable of the Persistent Widow
August 2, 2009

Text: Luke 18:1 *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*

Kingdom Lesson: *Always pray and never give up!*

Jesus teaches that we are to keep praying until the answer comes. This is not a sign of unbelief, but rather a sign of our child-like dependence on our Father.

Top ten reasons I give up in prayer:

1. No sign of any progress
2. Lazy
3. Tired
4. Negative emotions
5. Doubt God
6. Doubt myself
7. Unworthiness
8. Undeveloped relationship w/ God – petition only.
9. Entitlement
10. Unbiblical beliefs about God & prayer

Persistent Widow: Luke 18:1-8

Widow is convinced and committed to her request for justice. She knows what to ask, and who to ask. The unjust judge grants her request because of her *bold persistence*.

Comparison: *How much more will our God, who is just and loves us, grant us our requests!*

Parallel passage: Luke 11:1-10 “The Lord’s Prayer”

Disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray.
Petition is a necessary part of prayer.

Jesus knew persistence in prayer would be hard, so he encourages us.

Mt. 26:41 *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."*

Transforming Process: Delays in answered prayer causes us to “fight”, “flight”, or find God in it.

Advantages from actively “waiting” on God to answer:

Get to know God and understand his heart.

Get to know God’s will from different angles.

Get to know ourselves; what needs refined in us, and in the petition.

Get to know others; understanding and having compassion for them.

Passages for further study:

John 15, 1 John. 5:14, Philippians 4:6-8

Alternative: What happens if we give up in prayer? When Jesus comes back for his Church will he find faith on earth?

Under God’s instructions in the Old Testament the fire on the altar was to be kept burning perpetually; it was never to go out (Lev. 6:13). As God builds stamina and grit into our spirituality, we today must learn to burn the eternal flame of prayer on the altar of devotion.

Richard Foster “Prayer”

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