

KEEP PRAYING TO GOD WITHOUT GIVING UP

When I was young, our older brother often brought gifts when he came home from school. Sometimes he would stop by a bakery and bring us meat samosas or other treats. He bought gifts for everyone, but my sibling and I had a habit: whenever we got our share, we would eat quickly so we could finish and ask for more before our portions ran out.

At first, he would chase us away, telling us not to bother him. But we never stopped asking. You could see how angry he was—frustrated and annoyed—but we kept at it. He would warn us that if we continued, he might hit us. Yet we didn't stop, like persistent flies buzzing around. Eventually, seeing that we wouldn't give up, he would smile and give in, laughing as he split the samosas in half and shared them with us.

He started off angry, but in the end, it ended in laughter. He would say, "Alright, come and get it."

This illustrates a spiritual principle: persistence in prayer leads to results. Jesus used similar illustrations to teach His disciples the same lesson.

Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: ‘In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about people. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, “Grant me justice against my adversary.” For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, “Even though I don’t fear God or care about people, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me.”’” And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?’”

Theological insight: This parable demonstrates God’s faithfulness and justice. Unlike the unjust judge, God is both loving and righteous; He answers prayers not because we pester Him, but because He delights in His children and is committed to His covenant promises. Persistence in prayer reflects faith and trust in God’s timing, not merely human stubbornness.

Luke 11:5-10 (ESV)

“And he said to them, ‘Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him,” and he will answer from within, “Do not bother me; the door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything”? I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell 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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.’”

Theological insight: Jesus emphasizes faith coupled with persistence. Prayer is not a magical formula; it is relational. God invites us into intimate communion, where asking, seeking, and knocking demonstrate dependence on Him. The promise is universal: *“everyone who asks receives”*—God is not arbitrary but perfectly generous.

Prayer Aligns Our Will with God's Will

Some believers fear asking for great things, thinking God cannot or will not respond. However, Scripture teaches that our requests must align with God's will:

1 John 5:14-15 (KJV)

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

Theological insight: Persistent prayer is not just about receiving blessings; it shapes our hearts to discern God's will. It develops spiritual maturity, teaches dependence, and strengthens our faith.

The Power of Righteous Prayer

James 5:16-18 (NIV)

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

Theological insight: Prayer is an instrument of God’s power. The righteous are not superhuman; their efficacy comes from intimate relationship with God. Persistent prayer can shape circumstances, align with divine purposes, and release God’s providential power.

Pray for the Greatest Gift

The greatest prayer is for God’s own presence: the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 11:13-14 (NIV)

“For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Theological insight: The Holy Spirit is God's seal (Ephesians 1:13), our guide, and the source of spiritual gifts and fruit. Asking for the Spirit is foundational; through Him, all other blessings are understood and received in alignment with God's kingdom purposes.

Conclusion

Like the persistent child and the generous brother, or the widow and the unjust judge, God responds to faithful, persistent prayer. Do not limit your prayers. Do not become discouraged. Whether your needs are immediate or long-term, persist in asking, seeking, and knocking. God's promises are sure: *"everyone who asks receives; everyone who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened"* (Luke 11:10, NIV).

May you be abundantly blessed, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and filled with unwavering faith in God's faithful promises.

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