



# WEEK OF PRAYER 2017

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## Saturday: Persisting in Prayer

Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Luke 18.1

These words call for our earnest attention; there is a message that Jesus wants convey to His disciples so that it acts as an enduring principle in their spiritual lives—

- they should always pray,
- they should never give up praying.

In His parable, He illustrates and then applies this critical directive with these statements—

- “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?”
- “However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

While the parable is about an unjust judge, the issue of justice doesn't apply to God in the same way. The emphasis is on the persistence of the widow and it is that persistence that our just God will honor. Christians often pray, or say prayers concerning a need; Jesus, however, connects persistent prayer with sustaining faith—a faith that can endure to the very end of the last days when many will fall away from faith (Matthew 24.10-12; Luke 21.34-36). When it seems that no answer coming, is our faith in God's just-ness so robust and certain that we will continue seeking Him? If we cannot be convinced of God's character unless He does something for us, we will be unable to endure. It is persistent prayer that will keep our faith strong so that we do not fall away and are able to persevere until a breakthrough comes and until Jesus returns.

- **Pray that we will have strength to persist in prayer regardless of the impossibility of the challenges before us.**

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Matthew 17.20-21

- **Pray that we will persist in prayer for the salvation of friends and family members, for spiritual awakening, for transformation—the kind of answers that generate great spiritual opposition and bring discouragement in the process (Daniel 10.12-14; Ephesians 6.12; read: <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/praying-for-a-breakthrough>).**

- **Pray that we will be a church that always prays more—never less (Colossians 4.2).**

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be . . . faithful in prayer.

Romans 12.11-12