

Series: The Power of Prayer

MEN OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY

LUKE 18

Text: Luke 18:1

Luke 18:1

¹ And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Introduction:

We have considered over the last several week the subject of prayer. Let me say that prayer should be more than a subject it should be a daily activity.

We have considered the Privilege of Prayer, the Potential of Prayer, the Power of Prayer, and the Purpose of Prayer.

This evening we will consider the Priority of Prayer.

The Lord began this parable by stating “That men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

Today, many pray, but it is just a ritual or routine.

The Lord condemned the Pharisees for vain repetitious prayers.

When we pray why are we praying?

In this passage the Lord gives us principles for praying and how we can pray and see the results of our praying.

Note:

1. WE ARE TO BE PERSISTENT IN PRAYING (VSS. 2-5)

Luke 18:2-5

² Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: ³ And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. ⁴ And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; ⁵ Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

In the story of the widow, she keeps coming to the judge with her petition...her request! And she keeps coming.....and coming.....and asking.....and asking.

This lady had an adversary. We are not given any other details, but that she had a problem.

She would not be satisfied until the judge heard her request, and took care of her problem.

Notice the words of the Lord in verse 6:

Luke 18:6-7

⁶ And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

⁷ And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto

The judge in the story was an unjust judge. He did not fear God nor regard man.

So what was it that persuaded him to finally hear the widow, and answer her request?

It was her persistence.

And if that unjust judge was persuaded by the persistence of the widow, then don't you believe that a just and loving God shall be persuaded by his children?

Yes, he will.....but notice the words....."which cry day and night"

What is the message the Lord wants us to hear? It is.....don't give up praying! Don't get weary in praying! Pray persistently!

Not only must we be Persistent in Praying but also:

2. WE ARE TO BE PRECISE IN OUR PRAYING (VSS. 3)

Luke 18:3

³ And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

This lady knew what she wanted! She had a definite request! She was precise in what she wanted the judge to do

This lady knew what she wanted! She had a definite request! She was precise in what she wanted the judge to do!

We must be precise in our prayer. We must be specific.

Sure there are sometimes when we must be pretty general in our prayers. But if we want to really develop a prayer life, and see that prayer life be one of power, and one that gets results, then we must be precise in what we're asking God.

Illustration:

Remember Hannah's Request? She was bold in prayer, and was precise. She was without child, and you would have thought that she would have simply asked God for a child, but she prayed specifically for a boy. Why?

Because that was what she wanted! She was precise in her prayers. She was specific.

Not only must we be Persistent, and Precise in Our Praying but also:

3. WE ARE TO BE PASSIONATE IN OUR PRAYERS

Passion is that which drives us. It is that energy which fuels us to overcome insurmountable difficulties! Passion is what drives us in our conquering of goals, and passion is what is needed in our prayer life.

The widow in the story was gripped by her desire! Her desire brought her determination. She cared about the issue, and the outcome.

She was persistent in her desire to achieve results, and we must be as well if we are to receive answers to our prayers.

The Lord certainly demonstrated passionate praying:

Hebrews 5:7

⁷ Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

His passion for praying, and in praying was obviously what compelled his disciples to request....."Lord, teach us to pray"

They had observed the Lord in prayer, and saw the passion with which he prayed, and seeing this they realized that they needed to be taught by the master.

If we are to pray and get results, then we must pray as our Lord did – with passion.

James speaks of the importance of passionate prayers.

James 5:16

¹⁶ Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

The word “fervent” means hot, boiling, or glowing.

James then, gives an example of passionate praying.

James 5:17-18

¹⁷ Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

How do we get passionate in our prayers?

We become passionate when something is important to us.

We need a vision of God and His will for our lives. We need to see lost people as they are. We need to see what God longs to do in their lives, our lives, our families, and our church.

Not only must we be Persistent, Precise, and Passionate in Our Praying but also:

4. WE ARE TO BE PURE IN OUR PRAYING

We cannot separate the relationship of prayer, and purity! If we want to be powerful in our prayers, if we want to get results in our prayer life, then our lives must be pure

Psalm 66:18

¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

The word "regard" means "to see, or perceive". If there is iniquity or wickedness in my heart, then God will not answer my prayers!

Sin in our lives breaks our fellowship with God. It breaks the line of communication, and before that line can be repaired, there must be confession, and repentance of sin on our part.

2 Chronicles 7:14

¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

1 John 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Not only must we be Persistent, Precise, Passionate and Pure in Our Praying but also:

Close:

- Are we Persistent in our praying?
- As we pray, are we praying Precisely?
- Are we Passionate in our praying?

We will never be passionate in our praying until that which we pray for is important to us.

Are we Pure in our praying?

May we pray in such a way that we see the results we desire to see.