

PERSISTING IN PRAYERS

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

PERSISTING IN PRAYERS

Bible Text: Luke 18:1-8

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Our Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ. We thank you Lord Jesus Christ because of everything you do to us. May your Holy spirit be with us tonight, So that through your servant, We will be equipped, come to a deeper understanding, receive revelations and grace to do your will always in Jesus Christ name (Amen).

Introduction

I welcome you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I hope our day was kosher. As we continue to wait for the coming of our Father and God, Jesus Christ, may we not grow weary in Jesus Christ name. Amen.

Study

Then He spoke a parable to them that men always ought to pray and not to lose heart. Looking into the Lord's ministry carefully one would observe that it is one that is filled with parables which explains the principles and mysteries of the kingdom in a simple way. The Lord said men ought to pray always and not lose heart. The truth is that prayer can be so difficult if one does not understand why he should pray. In Christendom, it is one of the things many do not find interesting to do. And because Satan knows the power of prayer, he makes sure that many remain ignorant of why they should pray. And since without prayer heaven doesn't move into the affairs of men, Satan then hijacks the affairs of men

controlling them the way he wants. Several scriptures tell us to continue in prayer. Ephesians 6:18 KJV **PRAYING ALWAYS with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;** and the Lord said we ought to always pray. This means that prayer cannot be overemphasized no matter what one should not allow one's prayer life to stop, the truth is that nobody can over pray, you can only under pray. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV **Pray without ceasing.** This means that it is possible for one to stop praying, as it is currently many have stopped praying and they think it is ordinary whereas it is not so, no one suddenly stops praying without the influence of demonic forces.

The Lord said pray and not lose heart. There are many things that can make one lose heart, we will explore them. But looking at the parable the Lord Jesus Christ said we have to learn from it and use it as a case study. Luke 18:2 KJV **Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:** The Lord Jesus Christ made it clear that the judge did not fear God nor regarded man. As such, that kind of a judge cannot do righteous things, when a person does not fear God he will live in wickedness because it is the fear of God that makes one apart from sin. Proverbs 16:6 KJV **By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: AND BY THE FEAR OF THE LORD MEN DEPART FROM EVIL.** Therefore this judge does whatever pleases him, not minding what its repercussions may be. And since he's a judge he could pervert Justice without having his conscience pricked for it. Just like how many of our earthly judges and lawyers accuse the innocent and justify the guilty while many lawyers stand for lies, this was the nature of this judge.

Luke 18:3 KJV

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

Yet this widow who was helpless because she no longer had a husband that would stand for her or defend her had no choice than to seek help from this judge, she saw that he was in the position to fight for her and vindicate her from her enemy. Though she knew he had no regard for man nor for God but she made it a point of duty to go to him always. Since he would not threaten her to stop coming to him. She saw nothing too hard in going to him continually even though the judge did not answer her or take any step concerning the matter.

Luke 18:4 KJV

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

It got to a point that the judge could no longer contain her coming and then he said to himself "though I do not fear God nor regard man" which means that he knew who he was. Those who live according to their lusts, those who would not get themselves constrained by the laws of God know it, though they may not say it yet it shows in their actions. Those who do not regard men to honor those whom honor is due or love others knows it in their hearts and don't need anyone to tell them, this judge being such a one knew and said it to himself point blank. At least he was sincere to himself, unlike those who would not be sincere with themselves, and would rather deceive themselves.

Luke 18:5 KJV

Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

In other words, because this woman would not let me rest, just let me do what she wants me to do. It is possible that whenever the judge wakes up to go out of his house daily he does meet this woman there saying the same thing to him. Even in the night when he wants to go to bed the same thing, same with his leisure time relaxing, in as much as she comes in contact with him she keeps telling him the same thing because this judge did not want to get weary he said I will avenge her. When I was serving during my National Youth Service Corps program here in Nigeria. I was posted to a secondary school. So I tried as much as possible to preach, and teach the students and because I was friendly with them they love staying around and calling me "Master, Master, Master" because that's what students call teachers in that school. But because we were very close, I will be hearing them calling master here and there. There are times I will get back home and sit quietly in my room, I will be hearing master, master, master inside my ears, this happened as a result of how frequently and persistently they called me at school. The situation of this judge must have been similar to this, that whenever he lies to rest, he would be hearing "avenge me of my adversary." because it's just too constant and it's already getting to weary him. The truth is that wicked people would not mind if others get weary and are not living fine, but they want peace for themselves, just because they do not love others as themselves, he must have been waiting for the woman to get tired but observed that she would not stop then the only thing he found that he could do to stop her continual coming to him is to answer her. The Lord said hear what the unjust judge said, please hear it deeply, what did he say? This continual coming of this woman is taking away my peace and can land my health in trouble. That's why we must learn some things from this woman.

Is someone getting something from this?

1. **Persistence:** She was persistent in asking, she did not make it once in a while. She gave him no time to rest assuming there were times he had rested, he wouldn't have taken her seriously. To be persistent is to remain unchanged or fixed in a specified character, condition or position. It is to be insistent in the repetition of pressing of an utterance. (Such as a question or an opinion) the thing is this, there are many who are persistent like this woman but in a negative way which has turned it into nagging. There are some marriages where one of the spouses nags so much that it gets the other weary, this kind can lead to anger or bitterness. **When persistence is channeled toward the right direction, success is inevitable.** Many are not successful in their business and career because they lack persistence. For a man to achieve anything great in life he cannot throw persistence and consistency away or else he would fail. Those who are easily discouraged cannot achieve great things, assuming this woman had been discouraged, She would not have gotten her enemy avenged. Some time ago two girls met me and told me they needed a gift for the New Year then I told them I will give them only on a condition which they did not meet at the end of the day, but whenever these girls see me they kept asking for the gift and we see almost everyday to the point that I could tell the next thing they will say after greeting me which is "where is our gift?" even though according to agreement I was not supposed to give them any gift but they remained persistent and this made me change my mind because I started getting weary. They may not know the effects of their persistent asking on me, yet they kept on asking, not getting tired. That is exactly how it is, when asking the Lord for something one must persist and not get tired.

2. **Her specific request:** She kept on asking for one thing "avenge me of my adversary" every time she came to the judge this was the same request to the

point that he could tell what she came for whenever he sees her without her even stating the reason for her coming. The thing is that many do not know how to present their matters the way they should, they have no specific request, they rumple them together, if this woman had always come to the judge tendering different disorganized cases, he wouldn't have known which to answer among them, and might have gotten annoyed and sent her away. But it was clear and definite. In the same way the Lord likened this parable of this persistent widow with us. Saying, though this judge was unjust yet he did what the woman wanted, how much more God who is righteous and just would He not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though it might look long in their sight yet He would avenge speedily, look into the words of the Lord carefully here. "He said God will avenge His elect" that is, He would attend to them, it must be noted that it is only the elect that calls for His help. **The elects that would not seek for His help in prayers can die without being helped though an elect.** This is why the Lord said in Matthew 7:7 KJV **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:** From these words, the Lord wants His children to keep asking until we receive, He said when we ask for anything in His name, we shall receive it. John 16:24 KJV **Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

This woman kept coming because she had that assurance that one day the judge would answer her, that is how we must come to the Lord with faith. Many do not know that immediately when they kneel and start praying they are transported before the throne of God in the Spirit and they are kneeling before Him that is why they easily get tired in prayer and still doubt their prayers. It is established by the Lord that we should keep asking, it is not bad if you have a book where you write your prayer points in order to tender them before the Lord constantly

or have one or two in your heart which you persistently tell Him to do. It's unfortunate that some do not even know what they want. The Lord Jesus Christ said those who remain persistent in asking Him for help would receive it speedily, He further asked a very thought-provoking question. Luke 18:8 KJV **I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, SHALL HE FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH?** The Lord Jesus Christ who knows all things looked into the future and saw that many would later lack persistence in the place of prayer because they lacked faith; He then asked if He would really find Faith on earth. Here, we can see Him linking prayers with faith, those who would stand in Christ are men of prayer because prayer shows that one is recognising that he cannot help himself but needs God's help. Therefore, how many would the Lord find persistent in faithfulness? Because He has seen a great level of impatience, He had seen self which would be at work in people, He had seen that Satan will try all it takes to stop men from praying, creating doubts in their hearts, He had seen that those who claim to be praying would actually not be doing so because they wanted to seek Him but for show off, debates and competitions.

The Lord lamented when I would finally come, will I find such persistent faithfulness in my people, Will I? Will I? Now looking at the world, persistent prayers are no longer taken seriously by many. We now pray only when we are comfortable or convenient. Social media has drained the prayer life of many, unending gists and unhealthy relationships have hijacked the prayer life of many, Satan has sent out demons to fan people to sleep during personal prayers. And also the spirit of distraction is now very much at work in the church and at home during prayers, all to stop people from praying, the truth is that, the time you don't feel like praying is when you should pray. The Lord knows that **an elect who**

would not pray would one day become a neglect in the battle field of life, which was why the burden in Him made Him lament.

How is your prayer life?

Have you not gotten tired of seeking the Lord that you now search for a solution somewhere else, remember this woman, you need to remain persistent, God will answer speedily. Don't forget that even as an elect, you can die in your situation when you do not knock persistently on the door of heaven.

When the Lord comes back, may He find us persistently seeking Him faithfully in Jesus Christ name. Amen

This is where we would end today's teaching, if you have any question please ask, and if none, I pray that the Lord will answer our prayers according to His will in Jesus Christ name. Amen

Question

How can a mother with children still create time for prayers?

Answer

The thing is that, if one does not try to create time for prayers one would not have time because there are many things we do that take away our time. It's important that we all have set time for prayers everyday. A mother with children can do that in the midnight when her children are sleeping or early in the morning when no one has woken up. Even as she does her daily work too, she can also be praying, we are commanded to pray without ceasing. Praying should be our lifestyle.

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