

# Persistence Overcomes Resistance

## Opening Text: Luke 11:1-11

No one is more qualified to teach on prayer than Jesus, since He is God and that is where our prayers end up. After teaching His disciples the model prayer, after teaching *what* to pray, He taught them *how* to pray. Then, from verses 5 to 8, we learn 3 very powerful values of prayer:

1. The value of decision
2. The value of pleading your case
3. The value of persistence

### 1. The value of decision

The importance of making a decision of come!

- a) The story speaks of a man with a certain need and who made the decision to come and disturb his friend, at an inconvenient time to meet that need. He is so determined to get an answer that he disregards conventions and what is socially acceptable and decides to come at midnight.

**V.8** in the Amplified Bible (AMPC) says that this man had ‘*shameless persistence*’.

- b) Jesus always invited people to come and ask

He said in **John 16:24**:

*“Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive that your joy may be full”.*

In **Hebrews 4:16** we read, *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help **in time of need**”*

- c) In the story it was the wrong time to visit - it was midnight!

However, with God we can always come. We can come in the time of our need – whatever that time is. In the midnight hours of our lives, we can come, when it is dark we can come, when there’s no more hope, we can come... we can come and we will find mercy, grace and help from Him! With Jesus you will never find a ‘do not disturb’ sign.

The friend in the story is not a type of God. Actually, what Jesus is trying to say is that God is not like that friend: God is a greater Friend, generous, gracious, full of compassion – He values our prayers, and He is prayer-answering God! He is the kind of Friend who sticks closer than a brother! Aren’t you glad that there is a Friend at the other end of your prayer?

I love the words of this old song:

*“What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged— Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer.”*

d) Miracles start with the decision to come!

Jesus said in **Matthew 11:28** *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

The woman with the issue of blood is an example of someone who made the decision to come disregarding social conventions and religious rules. She took hold of Jesus’ garment! She showed ‘shameless persistence’.

## **2. The value of pleading your case**

This man had to plead his case before the friend. There is sometimes an element of “praying something through before God.” This is not because God’s reluctant to answer our prayers - we have already established that He wants to answer our prayers.

However, it is right at times to present your prayer before God as a lawyer pleading before a judge – presenting his case backed with legal documents (scriptures), evidence and with strong arguments.

In fact, the Bible says we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus.

**Isaiah 1:18** - *“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.*

**Isaiah 41:21** - *“Present your case,” says the Lord. “Bring forth your strong reasons,” says the King of Jacob*

**Isaiah 43:26** - *Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted*

Abraham pleaded his case, so did Moses, King Hezekiah, Elijah and many others.

The Canaanite woman pleaded her case with Jesus.

## **3. The value of persistence**

This is one of the most powerful principles to answered prayer. This is one area where many of us fail and therefore we don't receive answers to prayer.

a) **V.8** – *“...because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs”*

**Persistence** – Dictionary: tenacity, determination, staying power, steadfastness, purposefulness; patience, endurance, application, diligence, dedication, commitment, tirelessness, stamina;

b) **Luke 18:1-8:**

*Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,<sup>2</sup> saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.<sup>3</sup> Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’<sup>4</sup> And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man,<sup>5</sup> yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’”<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said.<sup>7</sup> And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?<sup>8</sup> I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

The unjust judge is not a type of God. He is the opposite. If the judge who is evil hears, how much more God, who is good!

c) **Hebrews 10:36** *“For you have need of **endurance**, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise”*

Endurance is another synonymous of persistence.

Sometimes we can't see the enemy's opposition to our prayers. However, Persistence will break resistance! **Daniel 10** is an example of that.

**Ephesians 6:18** - *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints*

d) **Hebrews 6:12 NKJV** *“that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises”.*

## Conclusion

Let us remember the three powerful values Jesus taught us in regards to prayer:

1. The value of **decision**
2. The value of **pleading your case**
3. The value of **persistence**