

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1-8 *“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 what people thought. 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 what people think, 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?”

God is not a reluctant judge who needs to be pestered continually before He answers our prayers. The point Jesus was making is that even an imperfect earthly judge will reward your persistence and eventually give in. God is more loving and just than any earthly judge and is more than willing to answer our prayers, especially when we persist.

There are two reasons why persistence is needed.

First, we need to wait on God’s timing. God knows our situation better than we do. He knows when the time will be exactly right.

Secondly, when we pray we are drawing upon the power that God has already granted us within our human spirit to accomplish miracles. God works through us, not for us. He builds us up and empowers us to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks on our own. As Paul said in Phil. 4:13, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* The more we visualize and focus on our goals and desires, the more concrete they become in our consciousness, and the more likely they are to manifest in the physical world in which we live. Practice makes perfect. The more we pray, the more powerful our prayers become. When we see positive results, we are encouraged to pray even more, and our faith grows stronger.

Ninety percent of what my wife, Arlene, and I pray for each morning is exactly, word for word, the same as the day before. I can tell you from personal experience that God answers prayer.