

## Never G.I.V.E. Up! Luke 18:1-8

How badly do we want to see God move in power? What sacrifice, what price are we willing to pay?

Persistent means having lasting qualities, especially in the face of dislike, disapproval or difficulties; Perseverance means a sticking to a purpose or an aim, never giving up.

**God** builds character in our lives through resistance and persistence. v.1 Jesus expects His disciples to pray. Our enemy will try to stop our prayers from being answered so we need to learn to persevere. Jesus set the example, always preparing for ministry by spending time in prayer first. Ministry is invading enemy territory and prayer is our first means of attack. Just as resistance exercise builds muscle, resistant opposition helps build spiritual character. The enemy will resist us as we seek to do God's will. **Dan. 10:10-14.** it is head on opposition and resistance that drives us to find our strength in God. Always easy battles don't make strong warriors.

**Interruptions** are okay with God. **v.2-5** A dripping faucet will eventually get attention. Jesus is showing us that persistence does pay off, it will be rewarded. Our persistence in prayer shows Him how passionate we are and how badly we want to see our prayer answered.

**Validate** your experience of God. **v.6-7** the more time we spend with God the more we know about His character. The judge gave in because the widow wore him down. **Luke 11:11-13** God longs to meet our needs and grant our requests but He does it according to His character not ours. He gives us what we pray for in accordance to His love, mercy, kindness, and holiness.

**Exercise** your prayer muscle **v.8** When Jesus returns will He find persistent, prevailing prayer warriors? Will He find people of tenacious faith who stand tall in spiritual battle in the power He offers? Our perseverance in prayer is directly connected to our faith. Do we really believe His promises found in His word? Do we believe that He is faithful in all occasions?

Faith is believing what God says simply because it is God who says it. It's time to flex our prayer muscles so that we can be victorious in the day of evil.

Prayer is more than a routine; it's a lifeline. It is essential to a healthy spiritual life. Some answers will come easily, praise the Lord, but if we press through when prayer is opposed the victory is even sweeter.

Sometimes we give up before we see the answer and say it must be God's will not to answer; God will always answer. Each of us can stand in the gap and do battle in prayer, if we are willing to be faithful. Someone is counting on your prayers.