

THE VALUE OF PERSISTENT PRAYER

SERMON TEXT: Luke 18:-1

Mother

- **Warmer than the Summer sun, softer than the breeze;
Sweeter than a rose in bloom, a Mothers all of these.**
- **She will always stand by you throughout your childhood years,
She'll be around to comfort you if you should shed a tear;**
- **She will always pick you up, no matter why you fall;
because the love of Mothers is the strongest love of all**

Mother

- **Yes Mothers are Gods angels, but remember they're on loan; and one day in the future God will call them home.**
- **So if you have a Mother, please show her that you care, and let her know you love her, and the memories you share.**

M - O - T - H - E - R

- "M" is for the million things she gave me,
"O" means only that she's growing old,
- "T" is for the tears she shed to save me,
"H" is for her heart of purest gold;
- "E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
"R" means right, and right she'll always be,
- Put them all together, they spell
"MOTHER,"
A word that means the world to me.

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- From the Hebrew perspective, prayer, in its most basic form, is about soul searching and pouring our hearts out to God whenever there is a desire or a need.
- The Hebrew word for prayer is *“tefillah”* which means *‘to judge.’*
- Prayer is asking God who our Creator and possesses all wisdom to intervene on our behalf.
- Once we judge Him able and willing to answer our prayers, we must take that leap of faith and open our mouths to ask.

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- **Complete this sentence:**
- **When it comes to prayer, I**
- **Our answers generally fall into 3 categories:**
 - 1. I don't pray enough**
 - 2. I don't know what to pray**
 - 3. I don't know if prayer does any good**
- **While few can speak glowingly of the ease in which they pray, many view prayer as a constant struggle that is sometime won but more often lost.**

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- It is understandable that prayer would not always come easily. Why?
 1. An expression of our faith (weak & small)
 2. A reflection of our relationship with God (often disrupted and strained)
 3. An expression of confidence in God (replaced by our feelings of disappointment)
 4. Used as a weapon in our spiritual warfare (seldom use)
- In our early Christian life, we pray with zeal and high expectations.

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- We assume that God will give us our deepest desires and enjoy close fellowship with Him.
- Then we ask God for something important to us and we don't get it.
- Slowly disappointment forms and we lose our enthusiasm for prayer.
- We go through a phase when we won't bring anything to the Lord in prayer.
- If you have stopped growing in prayer is it because of:
 1. Disappointment with God
 2. Disappointment with others
 3. Disappointment with ourselves

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- One of the most difficult concepts of the spiritual life, many of us struggle with, is the need for persistent prayer.
- Prayer itself is often a natural reaction that takes over whenever we feel overwhelmed by our circumstances.
- We pray when we're threatened by serious illness, we pray when we're threatened by adversity, we pray out of concern for our loved ones, we may pray in times of financial crisis and so on.
- Such spontaneous almost involuntary prayer is a natural and important part of our spiritual growth process.
- It is, however, only the most elementary beginning of what prayer is meant to become.

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- Spontaneous prayer is a means the Lord uses to draw us into the much deeper and more powerful realm of persistent prayer.
- In the parable of the unjust judge, our Lord teaches **“that men always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Lk 18:1).**
- It means to be always praying , and not to give up just because one’s plea is not answered as soon as expected.
- Disappointment has a way of turning prayers into silence; especially when we feel that God has let us down
- **But why? WHY should we always pray and not give up?**
- I mean is God deaf? Is it hard to get His attention?

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- Do we have to keep bothering Him until He throws up His hands in disgust and says "If I don't grant their request I'll never get any rest?"
- **NO...** Jesus taught us always to pray and not give up because, when we pray, our prayers carry weight.
- **EVERY TIME** you and I pray we unleash more and more power from the throne of God.
- Persistent prayer is the most powerful weapon God has given us against the enemy of our souls.
- **Prayer is what moves the hand of God!**
- We often hear sermons about the power of Prayer but I want us to remember that prayer only moves the Hand of God - It is God that changes things and events!

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- Every prayer you lift up to God's throne brings God's power to bear on people and situations.
- Prayer is AN AGGRESSIVE, ACTIVE MINISTRY.
- One man describing his prayers said "When I pray – I PUSH."
- When everything seems to go wrong, I just Push!
- When circumstances get me down, I just Push!
- PUSH stands for
- P-ray!!!
- U-ntil!!!
- S-omething!!!
- H-appens!!!

The Value of Persistent Prayer

- The purpose of persistent prayer is to establish the kind of faith that will remain steadfast regardless of what this world may bring to discourage us and defeat us.
- There are some prayers that God answers only when we pray persistently. Why?
 1. Persistent prayer keeps you in God's presence.
 - Prayer will make a man cease from sin or sin will make a man cease from prayer
 2. Persistent prayer helps you define and refine your requests.
 - If the prayer is wrong God says no, if the timing is wrong God says slow, if you are wrong God says grow, but if all is right God says go.

The Value of Persistent Prayer

3. Persistent prayer proves your faith.

- A person without prayer is a person without Christ

4. Persistent prayer puts prayer where it belongs—top priority in your life (1 Thess 5:17).

- There's something more important to God than answering your prayer: he wants to have a personal & close relationship with you.
- He who runs from God in the morning may not find Him the rest of the day.
- **Psalm 55:17 – “Evening and morning and noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.”**

Prayers are the Stairs to God

- Prayers are the stairs we must climb every day,
- If we could reach God, there is no other way;
- For we learn to know God when we meet Him in prayer;
- And ask Him to lighten our burden of care –
- So start in the morning and though the way's steep;
- Climb ever upward till your eyes close in sleep;
- For prayers are the stairs that lead to the Lord;
- And to meet Him in prayer is the climber's reward!