**"PRAYER" study...The Purpose,the Power, Privilege, Principles, tonight....We will look at.................7/24/2013**

**The Persistence** [**Of Prayer**](http://www.executableoutlines.com/pray/pray_05.htm)

**INTRODUCTION**

1. In our last study on **"The Principles Of Prayer",** we examined several

 essential principles...

 a. We must pray in faith d. We must pray with thanksgiving

 b. We must pray with humility e. We must pray in the name of Jesus

 c. We must pray in harmony

 with the will of God

2. There is another principle of prayer worthy of careful

 consideration...

 a. We must pray with **persistence**

 b. A principle of prayer that was very important to Jesus

[The importance of **"The Persistence Of Prayer"** can be extracted or taken from the attention given to it in the Scriptures.

Note first of all...]

**I. TEACHINGS OF PERSISTENCE** [**IN PRAYER**](http://www.executableoutlines.com/pray/pray_05.htm)

 **A. THE PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT FRIEND...**

 1. Told in connection with a request for teaching on prayer -

[**Lk 11:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2011.1)**...**  And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

 2. Jesus provided them a model for prayer -

[**Lk 11:2-4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2011.2-4)**....**And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.3Give us day by day our daily bread.4And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

 3. The parable itself, easy enough to understand -

[**Lk 11:5-8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2011.5-8)**....** 5And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;6For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?7And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.8I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity (persistence) he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

 4. Followed with an emphasis on being persistent in asking,

 seeking, knocking -

[**Lk 11:9-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2011.9-10)**....** 9And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.10For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

 **-- Note how persistence is connected to learning** [**how to pray**](http://www.executableoutlines.com/pray/pray_05.htm)**!**

 **B. THE PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW...**

 1. Told that men always ought to pray and not lose heart -

[**Lk 18:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2018.1)**.....** And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

 Here Jesus gives another parable on being persistent.......

 2. The parable itself, illustrating the value of persistent

 requests -

[**Lk 18:2-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2018.2-5)**....** 2Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:3And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.4And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;5Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

3. Adding that God will certainly heed His chosen who cry out day

 and night -

[**Lk 18:6-8a**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2018.6-8a) 6And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.7And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?8I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

 4. Followed by concern for whether such faith will be found when

 He returns -

[**Lk 18:8b**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2018.8b)8I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth

 **-- Note how persistence is related to having faith in the Lord!**

 **C. THE TEACHING OF PAUL...**

 1. "... continuing steadfastly in prayer" -

[**Ro 12:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2012.12)**....** 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

 2. "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,

 being watchful to this end with all perseverance and

 supplication for all the saints" -

 [**Ep 6:18**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%206.18)**....** 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

 3. "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with

 thanksgiving;" -

[**Col 4:2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%204.2)**....** 2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

 4. "pray without ceasing" -

[**1Th 5:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%205.17)**....**

 **-- Note how often persistence in mentioned in exhortations to**

 **pray!**

[Persistence in prayer must be very important to be stressed so often.

Yet we find more than simply **teaching** on persistence, we also find...]

**II. EXAMPLES OF PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER**

 **A. JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE...**

 1. When deeply distressed over His impending suffering -

**Mt 26:36-39....** 36Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.37And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.38Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.39And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

 2. While His closest disciples slept, he prayed three times -

[**Mt 26:40-44**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2026.40-44)**....** 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter,“What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 42 Again, a second time, He went away and ...

 3. In which He received the necessary help to face what lay ahead

 -

 [**Mt 26:45-47**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2026.45-47)**....** 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”

 a. Strengthened by an angel; cf.

[**Lk 22:41-44**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%2022.41-44)**....** And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening ...

 b. Heard by God, though His actual request was not answered

 - cf.

[**He 5:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%205.7)**....** who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear.

**If the Son of God needed persistence in prayer, do not we?**

 **B. PAUL AND HIS THORN IN THE FLESH...**

 1. Paul endured the infirmity of persecution -

[**2Co 11:30-33**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%2011.30-33)**;** 30If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.31The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.32In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:33And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

[**12:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%2012.7)**,**[**10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%2012.10)**;** 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

[**Judg 2:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Judg%202.3)**....** 3Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.

 2. He prayed three times that it might be removed -

[**2Co 12:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%2012.8)**...** 8For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

 3. It was not, but the Lord provided what he needed

 a. Sufficient grace and the strength of Christ to endure -

[**2 Co 12:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Co%2012.9)**...** 9And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

 b. Enabling him to even take pleasure in his infirmities -

[**2 Co 12:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Co%2012.10)**....** 10Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

 **-- If the apostle of Christ needed persistence in prayer, do not**

 **we?**

 **C. THE PRAYERS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS...**

 1. The church in Jerusalem continued steadfastly in prayer -

[**Ac 2:42**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%202.42)**....** 42And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

 2. When Peter was imprisoned, constant prayer was offered for him

 -

[**Ac 12:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2012.5)**,....** 5Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

**Ac 12:**[**12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2012.12)**....** 12And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

 3. Epaphras labored fervently in prayer for his brethren at

 Colosse -

[**Col 4:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%204.12)**....** 12Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

 4. Widows were assumed to be devoted to prayer -

[**1Ti 5:5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%205.5) 5Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

(like Anna, cf.

[**Lk 2:36-37**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lk%202.36-37)).... 36And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;37And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

 **-- If the early church needed persistence in prayer, do not we?**

**CONCLUSION**

1. With such examples and teaching on persistence in prayer...

 a. The importance of persistence cannot be overemphasized

 b. Persistence in **general** (keep praying!); persistence in **particular**

 (don't ask just once!)

2. Note well: persistence does not ensure God **answers what we may desire**...

 a. Jesus still had to drink the cup of suffering by going to the

 cross

 b. Paul still had to bear his thorn in the flesh by enduring

 persecution for Christ

3. Yet persistence in prayer is key to receiving **answers we need**...

 a. Grace and mercy to help in time of need

 b. Strength to endure whatever it is we must face

And so, through persistence in prayer, let us "ask, seek, knock" (cf.

[**Mt 7:7-8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%207.7-8)).... 7Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:8For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

, until God provides the answer to our prayers, giving whatever He

graciously determines we really need...!