

The Persistence of Prayer

Sermon Series: Prayer

January 25, 2015

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world and culture that increasingly expects and seeks after instant results and instant gratification. In many ways, we view our prayer lives in this way as well. We want instant answers to our prayers, but at times God doesn't see to operate on the same timeline and urgency that we have. And thus, we tend to abandon or even doubt the power of prayer. However, George Muller puts it this way, *"It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must pray patiently, believing, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer."*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As you read that quote from George Muller, what thoughts come to your mind as you reflect on the importance of patience in prayer? Why is it that we often give up on praying for something?
2. Have you ever felt frustrated in your prayer life? If so, please share a time where you experience frustration with God.
3. Read Luke 11:5-8. Summarize in your own words what this parable is communicating about prayer. How do you identify yourself in this story?
4. In Luke 11:9-10, Jesus tells His followers to ask, seek and knock after giving the first parable. What is the point you think He was trying to get across with these verses? Is He saying that we'll get whatever we ask for?
5. In Luke 11:11-13, Jesus compares the heart of an earthly father with the heart of our Heavenly Father. What is the comparison that He is making between the two? Why is this significant as it pertains to prayer?
6. As you reflect on your prayer life, what are the things that you pray for the most? What does reveal about the size of our faith? Would you say that you have great faith in God? How can prayer be an indicator of our faith?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

As we conclude our series on Prayer, our prayer is that God would ignite a heart of prayer in your life for this year. And although this series may be over, the real test of prayer in our lives begins.

Our sincere hope is that through this series, you have been encouraged to find that secret place, where it's just you and God and no one else; that as you pray that you would declare His greatness, surrender your will and acknowledge your dependence; and lastly, that you would keep on seeking, keep on asking and keep on knocking as you pray

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." – Luke 11:9-10