

Pray & Not Give Up!

Series: "Fundamentals of TEAM!"

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Luke 18:1-8 (NIV) ¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ 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? ⁸ 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?"

There are a lot of faulty misconceptions about prayer

Jesus told us to pray...

Luke 18:1 (NIV) Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Pray about everything...

Philippians 4:6 (NLT) Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything...

How long do I keep on praying when I don't see an answer?

1. Turn to _____ not _____.

v. 1 ¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Phlp 4:6 (NIV) ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Quote: Martin Luther, "Pray and let God worry!"

Jesus said,

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV) ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Col 4:2 (NIV) ² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

2. Pray _____ not _____.

vv 2-5 ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

Elijah...

Jam 5:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

Jam 5:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ ...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Psalmist said...

Ps 119:145 (NIV) ¹⁴⁵ I call with all my heart; answer me...

But many of God's people fail to do this!

Hos 7:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ They do not cry out to me from their hearts but wail upon their beds. They gather together for grain and new wine but turn away from me.

Php 4:6 (NIV) ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Quote: Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; prayer is laying hold of God's willingness.

3. Don't mistake _____ with _____.

vv 6-8 ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ 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? ⁸ 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?"

A delayed answer teaches perseverance and builds strength.

Jam 1:2-4 (NIV) ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

How long should I keep on praying?

Eph 6:18 "Praying always"

Rom 12:12 "continuing steadfastly in prayer"

1 Thess 5:17 "Pray without ceasing"

When can I stop praying about a particular issue?

1) When God _____.

2) When God _____.

3) When God _____.