(Luke 18:1-8 Amplified Bible)
Now Jesus was telling the disciples a parable to make the point that at all times they ought to pray and not give up and lose heart, saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and had no respect for man. There was a desperate widow in that city and she kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice and legal protection from my adversary.’ For a time he would not; but later he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will give her justice and legal protection; otherwise by continually coming she [will be an intolerable annoyance and she] will wear me out.’” Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says! And will not [our just] God defend and avenge His elect [His chosen ones] who cry out to Him day and night? Will He delay [in providing justice] on their behalf? I tell you that He will defend and avenge them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [this kind of persistent] faith on the earth?”

It’s important to have a spirit of perseverance and endurance. Always think that we’ve come too far to stop now. Regardless of what happens in the short term, persistent prayer reveals things to us. We start to understand things like: “I’m not the person I used to be,” “It’s easier to pray longer,” “I want to pray for people that I never cared about before.” The more often we pray, the easier it is to keep the connection open.

If we have no plan to pray, we won’t pray. We’re more likely to seek excuses for not praying. After all, who has the time; nothing turned out right last time anyway. Then when a situation of desperation occurs we try to find someone to pray FOR us. It’s true that Intercessors are powerful and essential for the church. It’s also true that God knows your heart and wants to hear directly from you so that you can develop your own personal relationship with Him. God wants you to come boldly and regularly!

Effective prayer requires determination, perseverance, tenacity and persistence. We must pray through the things that come at us: delay, doubt, ridicule, disasters, etc. Prayer is not magic; there is usually a space between praying and getting. Keep generational issues covered: grandchildren and great grandchildren not even born yet. Pray for what God wants in the house, not just for what we want. Think long term but expect it to happen any minute.

Remember the tenacity of the woman in the parable. The need for justice was pushing her and she would not settle for anything less. The judge had no regard for God, no respect for man; yet she kept coming. How many things have we brought to God and we left it before He did? We have to continue to push forward. The race is not given to the swift. As soon as you get up, hit the floor and pray. We’ve come too far to stop. God is faithful so don’t disqualify yourself. When you keep God on your mind, you’ll be amazed at what comes out of you in prayer!
Matthew 7:7 (Amp)
“Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you will find; knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you.

Discussion

1. When we go through a valley kind of experience, we’ve got to have a valley kind of faith. If this has been part of your life’s journey, please share.

2. The New Year will soon be here and we will begin our season of fasting and corporate prayer. Do you welcome this season or dread it?

3. God loves us when we feel unlovable. Share a time when you have felt confirmation of this statement.

Source Message:
I Can’t Stop Now
Pastor Bernard McNeill
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