

Prayer—Examples of Persistence

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BIG SANDY, Texas—On June 12, I started a seven-part series about prayer. Today is part six.

- Part 1—Talking to a Perfect Father
- Part 2—Faith and God’s Will
- Part 3—God Told Moses and David “No”
- Part 4—God Told Paul “No”
- Part 5—God Often Says “Yes”
- Part 6—Examples of Persistence

Abraham negotiated

Genesis 18:23-25—“And Abraham came near and said, ‘Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?’ ”

Genesis 18:27-28—“Then Abraham answered and said, ‘Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the LORD: Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?’ . . .”

Genesis 18:29—“And he spoke to Him yet again and said, ‘Suppose there should be forty found there?’ . . .”

Genesis 18:30—“Then he said, ‘Let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?’ . . .”

Genesis 18:31—“And he said, ‘Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the LORD: Suppose twenty should be found there?’ . . .”

Genesis 18:32—“Then he said, ‘Let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?’ . . .”

Woman of Canaan persisted

Matthew 15:22—“And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, ‘Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.’ ”

Matthew 15:25—"Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!' "

Matthew 15:27—"And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.' "

Matthew 15:28—"Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

Asked the Son of God

Luke 11:1—" . . . One of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.' "

Luke 11:5-8—"And He said to them, 'Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him; and he will answer from within and say, Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you?" I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.' "

Another parable

Luke 18:2-5—"There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

Luke 18:6-7—"Then the Lord said, 'Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?' "