

The Power of Persistence

Luke 18:1-8

SETTING THE SCENE:

A QUICK DEFINITION:

Persistence is **not giving up**

Persistent Prayer is **asking over & over**

Persistent Prayer puts us in a position of **dependence** and **surrender**

WHY DOES GOD MAKE US WAIT?

Prayer brings us into **alignment** with **God**

Luke 18:7-8, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

We don't **fully know**

Ephesians 6:12, Daniel 10:10-14

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

TAKING IT HOME

1. Take a minute and use one of Paul's prayers in Digging Deeper question #3 as a guide for praying for yourself. Now do the same for someone else.

2. As you look back on this series on Faith & Prayer, can you think of any new insight you want to remember? If so, explain.

Can you think of any ways you'd like your life to be different as a result of this series? If so, explain.

Communion

God's ultimate work in our life and His love for us is exhibited through the sacrifice He made on the Cross. Communion is one way we remind ourselves of all that He has done and all He's calling us to become. This week, your Growth Group will conclude by taking Communion together. To prepare for this, take a moment to read Psalm 103:8-14 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 reflecting on the significance of Christ's forgiveness of our sins.

NEW PROPERTY PRAYER UPDATE: The new Carlsbad Campus just launched and the work at the North Santa Property is moving full speed ahead as our move date is just around the corner.

- **Pray for good health, energy, and focus of the workers and church staff** as they work extra hours to get it all done.
- **Pray for the sale/lease of the Melrose Campus.** We have a group trying to put together a deal to make this happen. We'll be OK if this doesn't happen right away, but it would be a significant help if it did.
- **Consider riding the shuttle during this final run on Melrose before the move.** The parking lot has been completely full the last couple of weeks and we've seen many cars turn around and not return. By using the shuttle, you will help the many first-timers that come every weekend not encounter the parking barrier frustration.

WOMEN'S RETREAT — March 26-28. Join us for a weekend away at Murrieta Hot Springs—insightful teaching, outstanding worship, spiritual renewal, a great time with God, and connection with friends, old and new. Our speakers include Jeanne Bessant (Member Care), Susan Trueblood (Life Skills Ministry), and Pastor Chris Brown! \$175 or \$210. Fill up a room special, \$165. Sign up online or at weekend services.



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Luke 18:1-8

SETTING THE SCENE:

A QUICK DEFINITION:

Persistence is _____

Persistent Prayer is _____

Persistent Prayer puts us in a position of _____
and _____

WHY DOES GOD MAKE US WAIT?

Prayer brings us into _____ with _____
Luke 18:7-8, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

We don't _____
Ephesians 6:12, Daniel 10:10-14

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 14, 2010

This week is the final meeting of our Winter Quarter. (*Note: College groups are on a different schedule.*) We'll take a two-week break and the nine-week Spring Quarter will begin April 5 and run through June 4.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on *The Power of Persistence*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. After hearing this week's teaching, what would you say to someone who asks you to explain why persistence is an important part of prayer?

2. As you think about your prayer life, can you think of anything you've been persistently praying for?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Often we are most persistent in praying for the things in our life that are urgent or time sensitive. What do the following verses suggest are things that often aren't urgent or time sensitive but are nevertheless important enough to require us to be persistently praying for?

Colossians 3:12-14

2 Peter 3:9

Romans 12:14-18

In light of these verses, is there anything you'd like to begin to be more persistent in praying for?

2. One of the keys to praying persistently is understanding God's attitude about us bringing our requests to Him. How do the following verses help encourage you to be persistent in your prayers?

Hebrews 4:14-16

Luke 11:9-13

3. The Apostle Paul prayed often and persistently. He even wrote out a number of the prayers he prayed for the people in the churches he planted. As you read a couple of his prayers below, jot down a few of the things he prays for.

Passage	What Paul Prays For
<i>Ephesians 1:15-19</i>	
<i>Ephesians 3:16-18</i>	
<i>Colossians 1:9-12</i>	

What stands out to you about what Paul prays for?

What stands out to you in these prayers about how God wants us to live?

Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you to have or experience?