



Small Group Discussion Guide

Ice Breaker: Did anyone accept last week's challenge to pray Psalm 139:23-24 every day this week? How did it go and what was the result of praying the verse?

Instructions: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 1 & 4.

1. Read the stories Jesus shared with His disciples in Luke 11:5-10 and Luke 18:2-8a about persistent prayer. How do these stories make us feel about prayer? How have you found this type of prayer confusing? Why can't we pray like the friend or the widow? What stops us from being persistent? Or, if anyone has learned to pray like the widow and the friend, what strategies have you used to do so? Share with the group.
2. Read Colossians 4:2 and Psalm 25:15. What do these verses tell us about persistent prayer? Pastor Tom explained that we tend to talk to God more in two situations - what were they? How does prayer in these situations keep us looking to Him? Have you prayed these types of prayers? What were they and what was the result of those prayers?
3. Pastor Tom shares this quote from Rick Warren, "We learn about both God and ourselves when we don't get everything instantly. While I am working on the prayer, God is working on me." What does this quote mean to you? Persistent prayer is used by God to reveal 4 things about ourselves. What are they? What do they mean?
4. God always answers prayer. Review this week's sermon notes. When does God say "No"? When does He say "Grow," "Not Yet," and "Yes"? After hearing this, do you understand God's response to some of your prayers better? Would you like to share what the prayer was, God's response and what stage you were at? Read Ephesians 6:18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. How do these verses inspire you to take up the challenge to pray Psalm 25:15 every day this week?

Personal Guide for Week of May 28th

- DAY 1:** Read 2 Kings 5:1-19. God often tests us before He blesses us. How was Naaman tested before he was blessed?
- DAY 2:** Read Luke 11:5-10 and Luke 18:1-8a in at least 3 different Bible versions. Do these translations reveal anything new to you?
- DAY 3:** Read Matthew 6:9-15. How do these verses show that our desires, character, and timing are in good places?
- DAY 4:** Read Psalm 25. What does David ask of God in His prayer?
- DAY 5:** Read Psalm 84:8-12. What lessons about prayer did we learn from these verses this week?

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION // PERSONAL GUIDES

#AMEN

A SERIES ON PRAYER

MAY 28, 2017

"Why Keep Praying?"





"Why Keep Praying?" [Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Prayer is something that most people (even people who are not Jesus' followers) do at various times in their lives...but most of us feel that effective prayer is elusive, challenging, and even really _____ to do.

This series is about _____ to pray challenging prayers...

- ...prayers have potential to redirect our lives...
- ...prayers that move us out of our _____ zone...
- ...and _____ towards God's purposes and heart.

In so many ways the idea of being tenacious, _____, and relentless in prayer seems a bit confusing to us... (note Matthew 6:7-8).

Note Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8a

Why does Jesus want you and me to pray p_____, relentlessly, and continuously?

1. It Keeps Me _____ to God (note Colossians 4:2)

God tells us to pray diligently and continuously because He knows that it _____ us...

Note Psalm 25:15; 105:4

When do we talk to God _____?

When we need something...when we're in _____.

2. Praying and _____ Reveals Who I Really Am

We learn about both God and ourselves when we don't get everything _____.

While I am working on the prayer, _____ is working on me. (Warren)

Note Zechariah 13:9a

Before blessing us God often _____ us.

Persistent prayer is used by God to:

- A. Reveal my true _____ - it shows me what I really _____. As we pray about something over time, our prayer can end up changing, developing, and _____. By having us pray for something continuously, God _____ our desires.
Note Psalm 37:4
- B. Reveal my _____ - how do you know what's i_____ to you? What you _____ about the most. Problem is worry = practical _____. If it's worth worrying about, it's worth _____ about (note Matthew 6:32-33). Sometimes we're not waiting on God, but He's _____ on us (note Psalm 84:11b).
- C. Reveal my _____ - what is my c_____? P_____ = maturity. Delay doesn't necessarily equal _____, Note II Chronicles 32:31b. Will we keep praying/trusting when God's answer is delayed and not immediate/_____ (note Deuteronomy 8:2)? Persistent prayer helps bring us to a point of s_____ (note Romans 6:13).
- D. Reveal my _____ - do I trust what I can see/_____/experience, or will I trust the Lord? Note Jeremiah 29:11—God's plans come in His _____ (note Galatians 6:9). Persistent prayer is a faith-_____.

#Amen ("So be it"):

God always answers prayer (just not always the answer we want):

- When what I desire isn't good/h_____/God-honoring, God's answer is "No".
- When my character is in need of attention, God's answer is "_____".
- When the _____ of what we're asking for isn't right, God's answer is "Not yet".
- But when my desires, character, and timing are in _____ places, God's answer is "Yes".
- Note Ephesians 6:18 and I Thessalonians 5:17
- Accept the challenge and opportunity to pray Psalm 25:15 every day this week!

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Why Keep Praying?”
Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Prayer is something that most people (even people who are not Jesus' followers) do at various times in their lives...but most of us feel that effective prayer is elusive, challenging, and even really hard to do.

This series is about learning to pray challenging prayers...

- ...prayers have potential to redirect our lives...
- ...prayers that move us out of our comfort zone...
- ...and move us towards God's purposes and heart.

In so many ways the idea of being tenacious, untiring, and relentless in prayer seems a bit confusing to us... (note Matthew 6:7-8).

Note Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8a

Why does Jesus want you and me to pray persistently, relentlessly, and continuously?

1. It Keeps Me Looking to God (note Colossians 4:2)

God tells us to pray diligently and continuously because He knows that it benefits us...

Note Psalm 25:15; 105:4

When do we talk to God more?

When we need something...when we're in pain.

2. Praying and Waiting Reveals Who I Really Am

We learn about both God and ourselves when we don't get everything instantly.

While I am working on the prayer, God is working on me. (Warren)

Note Zechariah 13:9a

Before blessing us God often tests us.

Persistent prayer is used by God to:

- A. Reveal my true desires – it shows me what I really want. As we pray about something over time, our prayer can end up changing, developing, and growing. By having us pray for something continuously, God filters our desires. Note Psalm 37:4
- B. Reveal my priorities – how do you know what's important to you? What you worry about the most. Problem is worry = practical atheism. If it's worth worrying about, it's worth praying about (note Matthew 6:32-33). Sometimes we're not waiting on God, but He's waiting on us (note Psalm 84:11b).
- C. Reveal my maturity – what is my character? Patience = maturity. Delay doesn't necessarily equal denial. Note 2 Chronicles 32:31b. Will we keep praying/trusting when God's answer is delayed and not immediate/instant (note Deuteronomy 8:2)? Persistent prayer helps bring us to a point of surrender (note Romans 6:13).
- D. Reveal my faith – do I trust what I can see/feel/experience, or will I trust the Lord? Note Jeremiah 29:11 – God's plans come in His timing (note Galatians 6:9). Persistent prayer is a faith-builder...

#Amen (“So be it”):

God always answers prayer (just not always the answer we want):

- When what I desire isn't good/healthy/God-honoring, God's answer is "No".
- When my character is in need of attention, God's answer is "Grow".
- When the timing of what we're asking for isn't right, God's answer is "Not yet".
- But when my desires, character, and timing are in good places, God's answer is "Yes".
- Note Ephesians 6:18 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17
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