

Parable of Unjust Judge/Persistent Widow
Luke 18:1-8

Read verses 1-8

Jesus said that people should always pray without giving up or getting discouraged. Yet, we have trouble with it.

We have many verses in the NT that tell us to be persistent in our prayer and asking God.

Matthew 18:19 NKJV Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they **ask**, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

Matthew 21:22 NKJV And whatever things you **ask** in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Mark 11:24 NKJV Therefore I say to you, whatever things you **ask** when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Luke 11:13 NKJV If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who **ask** Him!"

John 11:22 NKJV But even now I know that whatever You **ask** of God, God will give You."

John 14:13-14 NKJV And whatever you **ask** in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If you **ask** anything in My name, I will do it.

John 15:7 NKJV If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will **ask** what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 15:16 NKJV You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you **ask** the Father in My name He may give you.

John 16:23-24 NKJV And in that day you will **ask** Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you **ask** the Father in My name He will give you. **24** Until now you have asked nothing in My name. **Ask**, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

James 4:3 NKJV You **ask** and do not receive, because you **ask** amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

1 John 3:22 NKJV And whatever we **ask** we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 5:14-15 NKJV Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we **ask** anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we **ask**, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

We have all these wonderful verses and yet we struggle with our prayers not being answered. Is it because of we don't have enough faith? Is it because God really doesn't hear us? Why can't I get an answer from God?

What is going to make a difference in our prayers? How can we see God's answer?

Jesus said we need to be persistent with our requests. Just like the judge, only quicker, God will bring justice on our behalf.

But there are some things we need to consider as we pray:

- 1) What are our motives and reasons for what we ask of God? **James 4:3**
- 2) Is what I'm asking within God's will? **1 John 5:14-15**
- 3) Am I giving God time to do His work or am I giving Him a deadline?
- 4) Have we called together other believers to pray with us? **Matthew 18:19**
- 5) Are we following God's commands or do we have un-confessed sin in our life?
John 15:7

Many times our prayers are hindered because of our own selfish desires and ways. We tend to want what we want when we want and nothing else. We even pray that way.

Other times we pray about things that God has set into motion from the beginning of mankind. It doesn't mean that God can not take it away; it is just a part of life. (ex. Getting old and body not working right)(evil happening to us)

We ask where was God when ____ happened? Why doesn't God make all the frailties of life go away?

We pray and pray and pray about them and become discouraged because things are not getting any better.

Maybe we need to change what we pray about. Yes, we need to pray about ourselves. But is that all we have to petition God about? What about the needs of others around us? What about the need for people to hear and accept the Good News of Salvation? What about all the missionaries who need our prayer? What about seeking God's will and direction for our church and ministries?

Jesus said continue to pray, do not become dishearted, because God hears and will do what is right for us.