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**Some thoughts to take with you . . . . . *Persistent Prayer***

Sometimes the Father may box us in, place us in a situation in which, one by one, all our secondary helps and supports are taken from us, in order that, defenseless, we may lean on His mercy alone in prayer. Once we see this, we will no longer regard prayer as a pious cop-out but as our only rational activity.

Dale Ralph Davis

• *Prayer is co-operation with God.* It is the purest exercise of the faculties God has given us--an exercise that links these faculties with the Maker to work out the intentions He had in mind in their creation. Prayer is aligning ourselves with the purposes of God... • *Prayer is commitment.* We don't merely co-operate with God with certain things held back within. We, the total person, co-operate. This means that co-operation equals commitment. Prayer means that the total you is praying. Your whole being reaches out to God, and God reaches down to you... • *Prayer is communion.* Prayer is a means, but often it is an end in itself. There are times when your own wants and the needs of others drop away and you want just to look on His face and tell Him how much you love Him... • *Prayer is commission.* Out of the quietness with God, power is generated that turns the spiritual machinery of the world. When you pray, you begin to feel the sense of being sent, that the divine compulsion is upon you...

E. Stanley Jones

The essence of prayer does not consist in asking God for something but in opening our hearts to God, in speaking with Him, and living with Him in perpetual communion. Prayer is continual abandonment to God. Prayer does not mean asking God for all kinds of things we want; it is rather the desire for God Himself, the only Giver of Life. Prayer is not asking, but union with God. Prayer is not a painful effort to gain from God help in the varying needs of our lives. Prayer is the desire to possess God Himself, the Source of all life. The true spirit of prayer does not consist in asking for blessings, but in receiving Him who is the giver of all blessings, and in living a life of fellowship with Him.

Sundar Singh

Praying is the same to the new creature as crying is to the natural. The child is not learned by art or example to cry, but instructed by nature; it comes into the world crying. Praying is not a lesson got by forms and rules of art, but flowing from principles of new life itself.

William Gurnall

***The Kingdom and the Cross***  
**Kingdom Posture: *Persistent Prayer***  
Luke 18:1-8

**Introduction:** Jesus has just reminded his disciples that there will be a period of time between his initiation of the kingdom and its glorious fulfillment (17:22-37). But the question that this forces upon the minds of all who follow Christ is this: *How are we to live while waiting for his return?* In chapter 18 Luke brings us Jesus' teaching on the *posture* we are to take as those who advance the kingdom in the midst of a broken world.

**What's a parable again?**

A story

A sting in the tail

**The Purpose of the Parable**

**Luke 18:1**

Prayer is to be an "at all times" practice

Losing heart is an "at all times" challenge

**The People in the Parable**

**Luke 18:2-5**

The judge

The widow

The outcome

**The Principles taught by Jesus through the Parable** **Luke 18:6-8a**

Learning from the widow

Learning from the judge

Learning from Jesus

**Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...**

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# KIDS NOTES

## Persistent Prayer

### The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *The widow kept coming to the judge because:*

- A. He had the authority to help her.
- B. He was the only one who could help her.
- C. She was in desperate need of help.
- D. all of the above.

2. *The unrighteous judge helped the widow because:*

- A. he felt so sorry for her.
- B. he feared God.
- C. he wanted her to quit pestering him.
- D. all of the above.

3. *Unlike the judge, God delights in:*

- A. hearing the prayers of His children.
- B. doing what is best for them.
- C. the faithfulness of His children in prayer.
- D. all of the above

**For Family Discussion:** What is to be our great motive in coming to God in prayer: *our benefit, or God's authority?* Why?

### Space to Doodle

### Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

PRAYER _____	TOTAL: _____
PARABLE _____	_____
AUTHORITY _____	_____
DEPENDENT _____	_____
JESUS _____	_____
JUDGE _____	_____

### Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

PRAYER PARABLE AUTHORITY GOD OBSTACLE OPPONENT SIN  
 GRACE FAITH TRUST DEPENDENCE JESUS JUDGE WIDOW STORY  
 STING TAIL PRINCIPLE EARTH JUSTICE QUICKLY PESTER WEAR  
 OUT CHURCH MUSIC PASTOR LEADERSHIP HUMILITY OBEY

O M S P O T E C K E R X J B E A S  
 B E Y U X S C G I A H P O B E Y T  
 S C T W G U N D E S I E C A R G O  
 T I E C H R E W E H U Z H Y E O R  
 A T Y C W T D I S H C M T T D V Y  
 C S A U V M N R A U T H O R I T Y  
 L U J U D G E P F X O P Y N S A S  
 E J K P M D P X R P D L E U Y T F  
 E L T Y A P E C P I K Q S S I T C  
 W L B E I P D O B C N E Y N T V H  
 S I L A A K N C I E J C G F D E U  
 I A D S R E M U Y T I L I M U H R  
 N T T O N A Q P R A Y E R P G N C  
 A O K T W P P H T R A E L H L O H  
 R P M Y T Q D O E Q Q D U F Y E D