

Topic: Persistent Prayer

Text: Luke 18:1-8, John 20:10-12,16.

Aim: To understand the importance of persistence in prayer and how it reflects our faith and relationship with God.

Introduction:

Persistent prayer refers to the continuous and steadfast approach to seeking God's guidance and intervention, regardless of how long it takes for answers to come. It involves continuing firmly in prayer in spite of difficulty or opposition, and it may occur over a prolonged period. Prayer is an important and fundamental aspect of our relationship with God, without which we are alienated from Him. Persistent prayer demonstrates our dependence on God and trust in His ability and sovereignty. It is the practice of bringing our requests and petitions before God with tenacity, perseverance, and unwavering faith. In this discussion, it is pertinent to note that God delights in hearing our prayers, therefore, He is never wearied by our genuine prayer.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is persistent prayer necessary? Discuss. 1Thess 5:17; Eph 6:18; Acts 12 : 5,16 ; John 20:10-12, 16.
2. What are hindrances to persistent prayer. Is 59:2, Ps 66:18, James 4:6, James 1:6-7, Mark 11:25; Ezk 14:3
3. How to maintain a persistent prayer. 2Chron 7:14, James 1:6 Luke 5:17, Luke 18:1, Phil 4:6, Matt 5:23-24.

Conclusion:

Persistent prayer is not a means of manipulating or coercing God to do our bidding, but rather a way of aligning our hearts and desires with His perfect will and purposes. Persistent prayer is a vital aspect of the Christian life, reflecting our trust in and commitment to God. Mary did not give up seeking for Jesus, even when others had lost hope, her tenacity was rewarded. Persistent prayer demands spiritual discipline and consistency. It is however important to note that persistent prayer does not necessarily mean repetitive prayer, which borders on unbelief and doubt. Persistent prayer brings profound benefits, including spiritual growth, peace, faith, and divine intervention. It enables us to connect deeply with God, aligning our will with His, and receive His guidance and wisdom.

Memory Verse: Matthew 7: 9. " Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you will find; knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you.