

The Power of Persevering Prayer

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Based on the Teaching of Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton drew from Luke 18:1-8, the parable of the persistent widow, to call the congregation to a deeper and more fervent life of prayer. He challenged us to understand that we live in two kingdoms simultaneously, and that persistent, Spirit-led prayer is the primary weapon God has given believers to push back demonic resistance and release breakthrough in their lives and families. He reminded us that prayer is not passive wishful thinking but an active, tenacious engagement with God that requires fervency, perseverance, and a refusal to quit before the answer arrives.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:1

"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of a time in your life when you almost gave up on something but kept going anyway and were glad you did. What kept you from quitting?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Mirek defined importunity as persistence to the point of annoyance. In what areas of your prayer life do you find it most difficult to maintain that kind of persistence, and what do you think makes those areas so hard to stay with?
2. He pointed to Daniel 10, where the angel told Daniel his prayer had been heard from the very first day but was delayed 21 days due to spiritual resistance. How does knowing that demonic opposition can delay answers, rather than God's unwillingness, change the way you think about unanswered prayer?
3. Pastor Mirek drew a striking contrast between the unjust judge and God as the just Judge, arguing that if a

cold and indifferent judge eventually responded to the widow's persistence, how much more will a loving God respond to his people who cry out to him. What does this parable reveal about God's character that might surprise people who assume persistence in prayer implies God is reluctant to help?

4. He referenced Ephesians 6:12 and the reality of two kingdoms, saying that everything happening in the natural has a spiritual root, and that prayer is the tool that engages the unseen world. How does this framework of two kingdoms practically change the way you approach problems in your family, workplace, or community?

5. Pastor Mirek held up the Syrophenician woman in Matthew 15 as a real-life picture of the persistent widow from Luke 18, noting that she refused to quit even when Jesus did not answer, when the disciples told her to go away, and even when she was called a dog. He said she had every opportunity and excuse to walk away but did not. What do her responses to each obstacle reveal about the kind of faith God describes as great?

6. He challenged the group by saying we often leave power on the table by backing off too soon, and that fervency, not length of words, is what marks effective prayer. What habits or mindsets in daily life tend to drain fervency from your prayer? What has helped you, or might help you, rekindle that fire?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, identify one specific situation in your life or family where you have been praying inconsistently or have quietly stopped praying because results seemed slow. Write that situation down on paper, find one scripture that directly addresses it, and commit to praying over that scripture out loud every day for seven days. At your next group meeting, be ready to share one thing you noticed, whether it was a shift in your own faith, a change in circumstances, or simply a growing sense of God's nearness as you persisted.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that each group member would receive a fresh stirring of fervency in their personal prayer life, moving from routine or occasional prayer into genuine, expectant conversation with God.
 - Pray specifically for breakthrough in situations where group members or their family members seem bound, asking God to dispatch his angels and push back spiritual resistance just as he did for Daniel.
 - Pray for the church's ongoing pursuit of revival, agreeing together that persistent, corporate prayer will bring the hand of God to move powerfully in your city and community.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

James 5:16b

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."