Praying, and Never Give Up

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Part 3. In the "Bold Prayers" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
11-15-26

Opening Prayer

- Pray for strength to keep bringing our requests to God even when answers feel delayed or distant.
- Ask God to deepen our trust in His faithfulness as we wait and continue praying.

Ice Breaker

What's one everyday thing you've almost quit on but kept going with anyway (a project, a habit, a conversation, or something small)? What helped you stick with it?

Key Scripture

Luke 18:1-8 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Sermon Summary

Jesus taught that bold prayer includes persistence—praying always and never giving up, especially during times of waiting, opposition, or unanswered requests. Through the parable of the persistent widow, He shows that God is not like the unjust judge; we keep praying because we know He hears and cares, and this ongoing dependence grows our faith while preparing us to use His answers according to His purposes.

Discussion Point 1: The Call to Keep Praying

Scripture: Luke 18:1 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Point Summary:

Jesus set the parable in the context of a coming period of waiting and difficulty for His disciples. He described a vulnerable widow who had no other option than to keep pleading with an uncaring judge, and He called His followers to the same kind of ongoing prayer instead of giving up when circumstances stay hard.

Discussion Questions:

1. What kinds of situations in adult life most tempt people to stop praying because nothing seems to change?
2. How does the widow's limited options in the story help you think about why we keep bringing the same requests to God?

Discussion Point 2: Faith Grows by Returning to God

Scripture: Luke 18:7-8 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud*.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Point Summary:

The sermon pointed out that the unjust judge never changes his character; he only acts out of self-interest. In contrast, we persist in prayer because we already know God is loving, good, and attentive, and each return to Him in dependence strengthens our trust in His faithfulness even when the answer is delayed.

Discussion Questions:

1. When have you returned to God with the same request after a period of silence, and what did that repeated choice do for your sense of dependence?
2. How does the question at the end of the passage about finding faith on earth challenge the way we think about long seasons of waiting?

Discussion Point 3: Prayer Shapes How We Receive Answers

Scripture: James 4:2-3 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Point Summary:

Persistent prayer is also a process in which God can align our motives and character with His purposes so that we are ready to use His answers in Kingdom ways rather than only for our own preferences. Waiting can develop patience, humility, and trust that prepare us for whatever He does.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of a request where the waiting itself seemed to change what you wanted or how you planned to use the answer?
2. What practical difference does it make to keep praying while asking God to shape your heart and motives at the same time?

Wrap-Up

The sermon tied the parable's call to pray always and not give up with the growth of faith in God's faithfulness and the shaping of our hearts for His purposes. Jesus framed the whole story with the question of whether He will find people still praying and trusting when He returns, so the invitation is to keep coming back to Him even when the waiting is long.

Challenge

Choose one ongoing request you have been tempted to set aside and commit to bringing it to God each day this week, noting one way the act of returning to Him affects your trust or your motives. If your group has access to the church's prayer wall or bold-prayer opportunities, add this request there as a visible reminder.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He hears His people and is not like the uncaring judge.
- Ask for endurance to keep praying and for hearts that are ready to receive and use His answers according to His purposes.

Handout

Praying, and Never Give Up – Reflection Sheet
Name: _____

1. One request I have been tempted to stop praying about:
2. A simple way I will return to God with this request this week:
3. One quality (patience, trust, humility, or another) I hope grows while I wait:
4. How might this answer, when it comes, be used beyond just my own benefit?

Sources used:

- Sermon transcript titled “PRAYING, AND NEVER GIVING UP” provided by the user (First Christian Church, Warsaw, IN).
- Public-domain King James Version text for the quoted Scripture passages (Luke 18:1-8, Luke 18:1, Luke 18:7-8, James 4:2-3). No other external sources were consulted.