

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #66

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 18:1-8

Sermon Date: Dec 31, 2006

Let's Keep Praying!

How long do you usually pray for things? How about those things that really matter to you a lot – do you really keep praying for them? How do you think God feels about all this?

Many of you know Judy Noon. She prayed for her dad's salvation for many years. Meanwhile, she watched him go through life without knowing Jesus – with no assurance of eternal life. This weighed on Judy's heart, and she longed to see his heart softened – to hear him one day share a testimony of giving his life to the Lord.

So she prayed. And prayed. And asked others to pray. And prayed some more. After many years of persistent prayer, Judy's dad recently accepted the Lord! Heaven's eruption with joy was the only thing greater than Judy's joy. The Lord answered her prayer, in His perfect timing, and in His perfect way. Her Dad died three weeks later.

This week's study passage is about persistent prayer. It's an easy one to study – it won't take you long at all. Applying it – well that will take a lifetime. But, as Judy will tell you, it's worth the work!

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and posting at www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'</p> <p>⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"</p> <p>⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"</p>	

2. One of our key goals in studying a passage is to identify its main message or point. In the case of parables, these forms of speech are typically designed to communicate just one thing. So, in studying this passage, much of our work is already done for us in verse 18:1. What is the main point of this passage?

3. What is the meaning of the second sentence of verse 18:8? Do you see it as related to chapter 17? What relationship do you see between our faith and the persistence of our prayers?

4. Can you recall some times when you (or someone you know) has prayed for something very persistently? Describe who prayed for what, and for how long.

5. What happened as a result? Are you aware of if/how/when the prayer was answered? How did you (or those who you watched pray) grow spiritually during that season of prayer?

6. What obstacles keep you from praying more persistently? How could you overcome these?

7. Complete the following sentence:

“I hope I never stop praying for ...”

The inside sheet of this week’s Bible study is designed to be a **Persistence Prayer Log**. Think of one thing you’d like to commit to pray about for as long as it takes – even for your whole life. Enter that one thing in this prayer log.

If you have more than one of these persistent prayer items, enter those as well. But if persistent prayer has been a struggle for you, then you should probably start with just one thing.

This is not intended as a place for ‘routine’ prayer requests which come and go – but rather for things you feel you need to commit to praying for more persistently. Of course, it’s hard for us to know which things God might choose to do tomorrow – so just trust the Holy Spirit to guide you in this.

Put this persistence prayer list inside your Bible, on your desk or refrigerator, or wherever it will be a helpful reminder to keep praying.

My Persistence Prayer List

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” (Luke 18:1)

Date	My Prayer Commitment: I Will Start (or Continue) to Pray For ...	Ways I've Seen God Answer This Prayer so Far

Persistence Prayer Log

After you complete this study, take this sheet out and use it to record one or two prayer requests that you want to commit to praying for indefinitely – until they are answered. Put this persistence prayer list inside your Bible, on your desk or refrigerator, or wherever it will be a helpful reminder to keep praying. Then pray. And pray. And pray.

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’”

And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

(Luke 18:1-8)

Let us then, in the same way, pray with such persistence for the things that are on our hearts and minds.

