The Need for More Prayer During Hard Times

*Luke 18:1-8*

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*1Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'*

*4"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5yet 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!' "*

*6And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8I 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?"*

***Big Picture: We need to pray consistently and often – and not grow weary***

*Intro:*

1. “Always” Pray – Why pray?
2. Be persistent (Keep Praying) – Why should I pray persistently?
3. Trust (Cry out to Him day and night) – Why should I trust God?

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(Show prayer video)

I prayed for a job last week, and I didn’t get it – did you keep praying?

Why should I pray persistently?

* The mercy is coming, though it may be delayed
* It’s not that God doesn’t hear you, or don’t know what you’re asking – but it’s so that He may know that you really trust in Him and are waiting for Him to deliver (not on your own)
* God is available 24/7 – not only during “regular hours”
* Galatians 4:6 – Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Why should I trust God?

* Things are often out of our control
* Examples
  + Making an ad
  + Getting a job, getting into school
  + Finding a mate
  + Being able to save up enough money for something
  + Changing someone’s attitude or mind

Poor widows are often taken advantage of, and swindlers want to take even the little they have

Bad – worse – worst before Jesus comes (even believers will despair of it and conclude He will never come)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him." – 1John 5:14-15

Challenge

Trying praying consistently about your problem this week instead of spending more time on trying to “do” the work to accomplish something.