

# Persistent Prayer and Ministry

## ***Persistent Prayer –***

illustrated by Jesus

### **Luke 11:5-10** (NKJV)

And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; [6] for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; [7] and he will answer from within and say, 'Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you'? [8] I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, **yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.**

[9] "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [10] For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

### **Luke 18:1-8** (NKJV)

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men **always ought to pray and not lose heart**, [2] saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. [3] Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' [4] And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, [5] yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her **continual coming** she weary me.' " [6] Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. [7] And **shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him**, though He bears long with them? [8] I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, **will He really find faith on the earth?**"

## ***Persistent Ministry –***

performed by Jesus

### **Mark 8:22-25** (NKJV)

Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. [23] So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when **He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything.** [24] **And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking."** [25] **Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly.**

*Jesus, ministering under the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 10:38) and the leading of His Father (see John 5:1-9, 19-20), touched this man twice before he was fully healed. This is an illustration of the need for ministerial persistence. Sometimes, the Father may want us to 'hang in there' when ministering to someone. The key is to minister, not by past tradition or practice, but as we are led at that place and time. We should also note that its not wrong to ask the one we are ministering to if anything is happening during ministry time.*

*Jesus illustrated persistent prayer in these parables of a friend coming to a friend at midnight and a woman continually coming to receive an answer from a judge. In conclusion to these parables, Jesus mentions "**persistence**" (11:8) and "**faith**" (18:8). Persistence in prayer requires persistence toward the one we are seeking an answer from, and faith that the answer may come in due time. (Persistence in prayer is not unbelief, as taught by some.)*