

(Topics, Lead-in, and Lead-in Devotional Reading below)

# Persistent Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

♩ = 63

Unison D

D D<sup>sus</sup> F# F#7 Bm Bm G Em Em G E<sup>sus</sup> Em7 Em9

1. Lov - ing Fa - ther, deep - ly good and kind, We, Your chil-dren, fill Your  
 2. Lord, Your love can on - ly give Your best. Per - fect wis - dom fil - ters  
 3. Far be - yond what we can un - der - stand, High - er far than all our

A7 A7<sup>sus</sup> A D D<sup>sus</sup> A C# F#m7 B<sup>sus</sup> Bm G G D Em7

heart and mind. With a mer - cy ev - er un - con - fined,  
 each re - quest. As we wait, You of - fer con - stant rest  
 will had planned, You are wis - er love, and here we stand

D Em 1, 3 1st time: D.C. 2 D D<sup>sus</sup> D F#

You hear our prayers. care. So thro' ev - 'ry de -  
 Here in Your You! Look - ing to You!

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

GRANT ZWEIGLE  
9.9.9.4.w.Bridge

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G      G/D      G      Em      Em<sup>7</sup>/<sub>B</sub>      A      F#sus  
 G#      A#

lay,      Ev - 'ry need,      ev - 'ry day,      Lord, we

Bm      F#m      G      D/A      A<sup>o7</sup>      Bm      Em<sup>7</sup>      D/F#      GM<sup>7</sup>      Asus      A

D.C. al Fine

trust, and we wait and con - tin - ue to pray.

TOPICS: Prayer; Tunes, Folk

LEAD-IN: *Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not become discouraged, saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect any person. Now there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my opponent.' For a while he was unwilling; but later he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect any person, yet because this widow is bothering me, I will give her justice; otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge said; now, will God not bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night, and will He delay long for them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"*  
(Luke 18:1-8, NASB)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## **Persistent Prayer**

*Luke 18:1-8*

Luke 18:1 tells us exactly why Jesus told this parable of the unjust judge:

*Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not become discouraged.* (NASB)

As He often did, Jesus used hyperbole,  
that is, obvious and intentional exaggeration,  
to make a point.

Imagine the most uncooperative, immovable person –  
a local judge who had no fear of God and  
no care for people whatsoever.

Imagine the weakest, most helpless of all people –  
in that society, a poor widow.

Imagine that judge having no concern for the widow's need and  
no intention of ever helping her.

But even then, the widow was so persistent that  
the unjust judge eventually gave her justice,  
purely to save himself from her continual pestering.

Remember, then, that unlike the unjust judge,  
our loving God is eager to meet our needs.

And unlike the widow in the story,  
we are so dear to Him that He eagerly listens to our every prayer.

There is absolutely no question, then, that He will  
speedily,  
justly

answer our prayers.

The real question is  
not about His faithfulness,  
but ours.

Will our faith endure as we await  
His way and  
His time?

Will we continue to  
pray and  
trust?

But ask yourself,  
    why do we have to wait at all?  
Since He is so eager to answer our prayer,  
    why does He often make us wait?

In any relationship,  
    such as a marriage,  
one of the biggest challenges is learning to live with  
    the inherent differences between the two parties,  
    between husband and wife.

That is so in our relationship with God as well.

We are  
    time-bound,  
    pain-sensitive,  
    narrow-visioned,  
    self-centered creatures.

God is  
    eternal,  
    all-powerful,  
    all-wise,  
    all-seeing, and  
    all-loving.

Every prayer request is filtered through  
    His perfect wisdom, and  
His perfect love refuses to give us anything but  
    His very best  
    at just the right time.

Thus living in relationship with Him requires,  
    commitment,  
    enduring trust, and  
    enduring prayer.

Our Father wants prayer to be  
    our response to every need.  
So as long as the need continues,  
    continue to pray, and  
    continue to trust Him.

### **Hymn: Persistent Prayer**

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