

Study Guide: Prayer=Faith

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

This study guide reviews the teaching on prayer and faith based on Luke 18:1–8 from the New Life Benson church service. The lesson examines the Parable of the Persistent Widow and the Unjust Judge, detailing what prayer is, common misunderstandings about prayer, why believers must stay persistent, and how prayer shapes a believer's faith in God. It also reviews church announcements, community prayer requests, and relevant scripture passages.

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

1. What scripture from Jeremiah was read as the memory verse during the service, and what fundamental truth does it state about God?
 2. According to the lesson, what are two core descriptions that define what true prayer is?
 3. What are three common misconceptions or incorrect attitudes that people have regarding what prayer is not?
 4. Why does God desire for believers to pray if He already knows their needs before they ask Him?
 5. In Luke 18:1, what two specific instructions does Jesus give to His followers concerning prayer?
 6. What are four reasons highlighted in the lesson for why people often give up and stop praying when answers are delayed?
 7. Who does the widow represent in the Parable of the Persistent Widow, and what essential quality does she demonstrate?
 8. How does the lesson contrast the character and motivation of the unjust judge with the character of God?
 9. What does the phrase "bears long with them" mean in Luke 18:7 when describing God's interaction with His elect?
 10. According to Luke 18:8, what specific quality is Jesus looking to find on the earth when He returns?
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Answer Key

1. The memory verse is Jeremiah 32:17, which states, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You." This verse declares that God created all things through His supreme power and that no situation is too difficult for Him.
2. Prayer is defined as having open communication and an active personal relationship with God. It also involves praising His great attributes, bringing concerns and sins before Him, asking for guidance, and finding comfort in His presence.
3. Prayer is not a wish list for personal desires, nor is it treating God like a vending machine. Additionally, it is not informing God of facts He does not know, nor is it repeating words to force Him to act on a human timetable.
4. God wants His people to pray because prayer changes the believer rather than changing God. Praying keeps believers humble, teaches them that God is in control, and strengthens their faith and trust in Him.
5. Jesus tells His followers that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. He emphasizes that believers must maintain continuous prayer and stay courageous, even when an answer is not immediately visible.
6. People often stop praying because they do not get an immediate answer, lack faith, or run out of patience. Others stop praying when life is going well and they become self-sufficient, or because a weak relationship causes them to mistake God's silence for His absence.
7. The widow represents believers or God's chosen people who experience vulnerability, distress, and oppression in the world. She demonstrates steadfast faith and tenacity by continually seeking justice without giving up.
8. The unjust judge did not fear God or care about people, granting justice only because the widow's continual coming wore him out. In contrast, God is a righteous, loving Father who deeply cares for His children and willingly responds to their cries.
9. The phrase describes a duration of time in which God may wait or delay before stepping in to rescue His people from trials. This delay is used by Him to test, shape, and refine the faith of His children for His ultimate glory.
10. Jesus explicitly stated that He will be looking to see if He finds genuine faith on the earth. He measures whether His followers have remained obedient and continued to trust Him throughout their trials.

Essay Questions

1. Explain how the Parable of the Persistent Widow in Luke 18:1–8 illustrates the direct connection between persistent prayer and genuine faith in God.
2. Discuss why Jesus deliberately allows delays in answering the prayers of His followers, referencing biblical examples from the sermon such as Lazarus in John 11:4.
3. Contrast biblical prayer with common human misconceptions about prayer, explaining how a correct understanding of prayer transforms a believer's heart.
4. Review the church announcements and community prayer requests (such as those for Arlene Rush, Belinda, and Ranger Bob), analyzing how practical fellowship and prayer reflect the faith of a Christian community.
5. Examine James 1:12 and Jeremiah 32:17 in the context of personal trials, explaining how remembering God's power helps believers remain steadfast when facing difficult circumstances.

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Adversary:** An opponent or enemy who opposes someone, such as the party causing distress for the widow in Luke 18:3.
- **Benevolence:** An act of kindness, charity, or providing material aid to assist individuals facing financial or physical hardship.
- **Elect:** The chosen people of God who belong to Him through faith and call upon Him day and night.
- **Faith:** Complete trust, confidence, and reliance upon God and His promises, regardless of circumstances or delays.
- **Operation Christmas Child:** An annual mission project where gift-filled boxes containing items such as clothing, plastic cups, combs, and pencils are collected for children in need.
- **Parable:** A earthly story told by Jesus to illustrate a deeper spiritual truth or kingdom principle.
- **Persistence:** The quality of continuing steadfastly in a course of action, such as continuous prayer, despite opposition or delays.
- **Tenacity:** The quality of being persistent, determined, and unwavering in faith and trust in God.
- **Unjust Judge:** An official in Luke 18 who lacked reverence for God, had no regard for people, and acted strictly out of self-interest.

Greek Language Study

- **Makrothumeo (or Makrothumei)** ¹
 - **Phonetic Pronunciation:** mah-kroh-thoo-MEH-oh
 - **Definition:** A Greek verb meaning to bear long, delay action, exercise patience, or put off intervention over someone. In Luke 18:7, it refers to how God "bears long" over His elect, allowing a duration of time to pass to test their faith before bringing justice.

Footnotes

¹ The sermon notes that modern translations render the Greek phrase in Luke 18:7 as asking whether God "will delay long over them" or "keep putting them off." This concept comes from the Greek verb *makrothumeo*, which describes long-suffering, patient waiting, or delaying action over a duration of time.