

CM Youth Devotional - **PRAYER Day 1**

We'll start off this devotional with this big idea: Prayer can't just be a one time hit. I think we often pray about something maybe a few times and then totally expect that prayer to be answered in the next day or so, even week. What's so important to understand is that prayer needs to be a constant thing, it needs to be frequent. With that said, let's read this story and pull some truths out about it.

Luke 18:1-8

¹Then 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 what people thought. ³ And 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 what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!' "

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?"

We'll start off this journey with simply this challenge: Find something to pray about, then pray about it at least once every day for the next 7 days. I would even encourage you to push that further and pray about that thing 2-3 times each day.

A good example as to why this is so important is a lovely Christmas time story. I would imagine that around October or so you begin thinking about what you want for Christmas. You tell your parents on the first day of October that you want the new PS5 for Christmas and sort of just said you would like it, then never mentioned it again. Christmas morning rolls around and to your absolute shock you find that your parents got you some new shoes and a gift card to Cane's. But why wouldn't they have given you a PS5? It's definitely because your parents don't like you, or they want you to be left out on the new things, or they don't like doing good things for you. - Obviously we all know why you didn't get the PS5, you only asked once, a few months ago.

Take some time to discuss the Bible story and this Christmas story as a family

Question: Why is it so easy to let prayer slip by in a day?

Question: What can you do to make sure there's a spot in your day to pray?

CM Youth Devotional - **PRAYER Day 2**

On Day 1 we looked at the main premise: Pray frequently. Now I want to move onto more of why that is what God calls us to do. Obviously the passage we looked at does say it out right, and the whole story is about that, but why exactly should we be praying about the same thing so repetitively? Why isn't it good enough for me to pray for something and then just being answered or go into like a queue of prayers to be answered? I want to hit this from 2 sides - Frequent prayer shows you're serious about the prayer, and it draws you closer to God.

Serious Prayers - Just like my Christmas story, we know that if someone were to mention something only one time, and months ago, that would mean it's sort of just an afterthought, or just another thing. You'll talk about your main interests multiple times in a week, even in a day. Your main interests are things you're serious about. Also it sort of just makes sense that things you really need God to work in you'd ask multiple times. When a family member is in bad health we typically will say a few more prayers than usual. That shows that you're serious about them getting better. What would your life look like if you took that same seriousness into other prayers in your life? Whether it's as serious as bad health, or even as mundane as having a good day.

Closer to God - We know that the single best way to build relationship with someone is by simply talking with them. It's how we do it with others, and how we do it with God. I really do believe God designed prayer in a way that both provides power in our lives and builds connection between us and God. As we pray, and continue to pray it naturally draws us closer and closer to God and strengthens that relationship. As we pray and see God answer those prayers it in turn builds our faith and trust in a God who does hear our prayers and answers them.

God absolutely calls us to pray, however I think in many cases the power of prayer does come down to the frequency of prayer. Build a habit in your life to pray until you see it answered. Pray about something, then pray again. Then pray again. Keep praying. I like to say, "Pray until God couldn't forget your prayers even if He tried."

Take some time to discuss the Bible story as a family

Question: What do you find yourself actually praying about often, and what does that say about your prayer life?

Question: How can you make sure you set aside time in the day to pray - practically?

CM Youth Devotional - **PRAYER Day 3**

Luke 18:6

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?”

In this story, we see that the widow finally gets her case heard by the judge, but only because he was so tired of hearing this woman beg. I can imagine you might be sort of thinking that’s what’s really happening behind the scenes here - pray until you annoy God. What is so encouraging about this story is of course God knows that’s exactly what people’s mind will slip to at some point. Jesus makes sure to draw a distinct line, the unjust judge does it by motivation of annoyance, God does it out of compassion.

You can rest on this fact, God wants to answer your prayers. I’ll say it again so you know you read that right, God wants to answer your prayers. He really does. God wants to have a closer relationship with you, and wants to see that the desires of your heart are met. As you pray, and then pray again, and then again, know that God is working on your behalf to see those prayers come to life. My own prayer life absolutely comes to life when I remember that I have a God, a father, that wants to hear from me and wants to do big things in my life.

My actual prayers for this devotional is that you see the importance of frequent prayers and put them into action. It’s not enough to learn about praying, you have to act on it. We’ll end this devotional on 2 things

Re-read Luke 18:1-8

Questions:

Have you been praying more this week?

If yes, talk about what helped you stay in that routine

If no, why not? And what can you do today to start setting time in your day to pray?

“Pray until God couldn’t forget about your prayers even if He tried.”