

Theme: We are called to persevere in faith filled prayer, not losing heart but believing that God will answer as He has promised.

I. **Intro – *Faster: The Acceleration of Just About Everything***

- A. Book on time consciousness, moving faster
- B. Our whole society is based on speed
- C. This is not good for prayer!
- D. Today: perseverance in prayer

II. **The Parable: 2 Main People, Points**

- A. The main characters & points
 - 1. Characters – judge and the widow
 - 2. Point – Unjust judge, yet widow persevered – will we?
- B. The judge – the opposite of God
 - 1. Ways he is opposite of God
 - a. No fear of God, or concern for man (vv 2, 4)
 - b. Selfish motive for answering (vv4-5)
 - c. Jesus calls him ‘unjust’ (v6)
 - 2. Point – He still answered; and God delights to answer!
 - a. Even this unjust judge answered the widows plea
 - b. How much more will God who delights to answer!

3. Application – have faith – God is not unjust judge!

C. The widow – a persevering woman – are we?

- 1. The pattern of perseverance
 - a. She kept coming to judge (v3)
 - b. Got answer because of perseverance (vv4-5)
- 2. Point – are we like the widow?
 - a. Always pray and don’t give up (v1)
 - b. We are to cry out day and night (v7)
 - c. Will Son of man find faith at return? (v8)
- 3. Application – we should persevere in prayer

III. **The Association of Faith & Perseverance**

- A. Some have seen these as antithetical
 - 1. If you have faith – no need to persevere
 - 2. To continue praying is to show lack of faith
- B. Scripture shows them as partners together
 - 1. v7 – faith at return = persevering in prayer
 - 2. Heb 6:12-15 – faith & patience; waited patiently
 - 3. Heb 6:16-20 – confirmed, encouraged, anchor

4. James 5:7-11 – farmer; prophets, Job

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C. Faith and perseverance in prayer

1. We have seen how we are called to faith in prayer
2. We must show our faith by persevering in prayer

D. Examples: Moses and Elijah

1. Moses – prayed for 40 days! (Dt 9:18-20)
2. Elijah – prayed 7 times for rain (1 Ki 18:41-46)

IV. Conclusion & Summary

A. Have we lost faith in our praying?

1. Do we believe God answers our prayers?
2. Again: duty or powerful access to God?
3. Faith is critical to grasping the promises in prayer

B. Do we persevere in our prayers?

1. Do we see the need to persevere?
2. Do we continue until God answers?
3. Does Jesus see our faith by our perseverance?

Perseverance in Prayer

Luke 18:1-8
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¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those **who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.** ¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." ¹⁵ **And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.** Heb 6:12-15

¹⁶ Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ **Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.** ¹⁸ **God did this so that,** by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, **we** who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us **may be greatly encouraged.** ¹⁹ **We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.** It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 6:12-20

⁷ **Be patient,** then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. **See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.** ⁸ **You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.** ⁹ Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ **Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets** who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ **As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about.** The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. James 5:7-11

Then once again I fell prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and so provoking him to anger. ¹⁹ I feared the anger and wrath of the LORD, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. **But again the LORD listened to me.** ²⁰ And the LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, but at that time I prayed for Aaron too. Deuteronomy 9:18-20

⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, **"Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain."** ⁴² So Ahab went off to eat and drink, **but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.** ⁴³ **"Go and look toward the sea,"** he told his servant. **And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."** ⁴⁴ The seventh time the servant reported, **"A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea."** **So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.'"** ⁴⁵ Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain came on and Ahab rode off to Jezreel. ⁴⁶ The power of the LORD came upon Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. 1 Kings 18:41-46