

DISCOVER AND EMBRACE

God's created design

AND MISSION FOR YOUR LIFE!



THE PATTERN OF PRAYER

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Text: Luke 17-18

In the church and in the work of the Lord everything rises and falls on prayer.

In Luke 17, Jesus tells His disciples (and us) that evil is going to prowl across the face of the earth. He uses two Old Testament stories to prepare them for what's going to happen.

1. The Days of **Noah**

- The people were so planted in the **present**, they weren't thinking about the **future**. They were so complacent that they ignored God's warning.
- God is not willing that any should perish. So before **judgment** comes, He warns us again and again so no one can say they've not been told.

2. The Days of **Lot**

- The people in Lot's time chose **rebellion** over **God**, and they were reduced to dust.
- The only way we'll effectively get through this life is to keep our eyes on **Jesus**. We will grow weary if our **perspective** is on anything except on Him.

The **Pattern** for Prayer (vv. 1-5)

- **Consistent**
 - o For the believer, it's a **constant**, **regular**, **long-term**, and **permanent** activity.
 - o The value of consistent prayer isn't that God will **hear us**, but that we will **hear** from **Him**.
 - o Consistency in prayer is the hallmark of a **vibrant**, **Christian** life.
 - o Consistent prayer works to keep us from being **discouraged** or **afraid**.
- **Insistent**
 - o The **widow** is the example of insistent prayer.
 - o Her prayer is **specific** and **direct**.
 - o God loves **specific** prayers because they make us go **deeper** in our conversation with God.
- **Persistent**
 - o Woman went every day, boldly **knocking** on the judge's door.
 - o Pray without **ceasing** (1 Thess. 5:17)—has idea of no **intermission**.
 - o Jesus tells us to be ready, to be on guard, to be **watchful** at all times.

The Perspective of Prayer (vv. 6-7)

- Consistent is the focus of prayer. It's not about us. It's about Him.
- God's timing is always perfect.
- He answers the prayers of His elect, His children.

The Product of Prayer (vv. 7-8)

- Prayer builds up our faith.
- In the latter days, true faith is going to be hard to find.
- God wants us to press forward, to press on, and to grow up in Him.

Oh the stories we're going to hear in eternity about the end result of consistent, insistent, and persistent prayer. God doesn't require us to know the outcome, and we cannot require of Him to know the end results. He is God; we are not. We are called to pray in obedience, faithfully.