**PERSEVERING PRAYER**

***Written By: Tommy Romans Dec. 2018***

 Do you know what keeps you going? It is Faith & Prayer! Prayer is your life-line, it is the Souls Blood, your connection to God, it’s your strength, your link to Heaven and everything Good! This was the early Church’s secret of overcoming power and victory. Great grace was upon the Saints because they knew how to persevere in Prayer! Faith and Prayer will keep you alive in troublesome times. It will give you fortitude in your trials.

 Listen, I pray because I believe and I believe because I Pray – it works both ways. The more I pray, the more I trust and have confidence that My God hears me. It builds something in me! It puts a Faith in me that can’t be denied. Prayer is to the Soul what food is to the body. It sustains and strengthens. It brings a deep settled Peace and Hope inside.

 **I Jn. 5:14** – And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His Will, He heareth us: **15** – And if we KNOW that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we KNOW that we have the Petitions that we desired of Him. Listen to what the Apostle James said: History says that he prayed so often that his knees were calloused and looked like Camel’s knees. **James 5:16** – The Effectual, Fervent Prayer of a Righteous man Availeth much. The original Greek translation to this verse reads: “The Earnest, Sincere and continued Prayer of a Righteous man produces power to accomplish many things and bring them to pass!”

 Many of you reading this are alive today because you Prayed. You knew how to get a hold of God. You have gotten many answers in your life and He’s brought you through rough times and hard spots because you knew how to Pray and wait on God! When Israel came to the end of their 40 year journey in the wilderness and were ready to enter the Promised Land, Moses said to them in **Deut. 4:4** – Ye that did Cleave unto the Lord your God are alive everyone of you this day! O Lord, give us a determined Will to Persevere in Prayer – to stand on your Holy infallible Word and Promise regardless what we face or go through! Keep Praying Child of God till you get that unshakeable Faith that says – I know, I know, I KNOW! When you’re tempted and tried by the devil, you can say – “I know I’m called, I know I’m Saved. I’m a Child of God. Regardless

what the enemy whispers and says to me, I still believe and hold my Confidence firm to the end.”

FAITH’S EYES AND VOICE

 **Heb. 11:1** – Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith is being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not yet see. This is the God kind of Faith that refuses to surrender or give up. It reaches out and keeps reaching and believing till the substance comes into reality. As long as you keep praying, believing and obeying God – your Faith will be rewarded. This Faith that comes through Persevering Prayer believes during the storms, bad news won’t shake it, circumstances don’t change it; it holds on in the bad times. That God given Faith the Lord put in your heart when He saved you has a voice! The more you Pray, the stronger it becomes. It will tell you to Hold on, it’s not in vain! Your answer is on the way, your God is going to come through. One preacher put it this way – “I’m not moved by what I see, I’m not moved by what I feel – I’m only moved by God’s Holy Word I know is Real!”

A PERSISTENT WOMAN

WHO WOULDN’T GIVE UP

 Do you know what Persistence means? (It means to Continue on beyond the usual period of time without changing or quitting. It’s not letting up despite the hindrances.) In other words, if my answer doesn’t come immediately when I expect it, I’ll not let up or quit. Let’s look at this woman Jesus tells us about in:

**Luke 18**! Lu 18:1 ¶ And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men Ought always to Pray, and not to faint; (He is telling us – the point of the whole matter is that we must Pray. Your survival depends on it. If you are going to endure and make it in this last day, then it will depend on your praying. A lot of people have given up right before their answer and victory came.)

 **V2** Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: (That sounds like the devil to me. He sits in power as a judge and passes out sentences on people, with no mercy. He cares not for the poor and needy. He cares not for God’s people.)

 **V3** – says - And there was a Widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. (This poor widow no doubt was all alone. I have no-one to assist me. I am struggling in this situation and I need help! Sir, I’ve got an enemy who is dogging me. He’s hounding me day and night. He’s speaking awful things to me, it has taken away my peace; I’m troubled and afraid! I’m threatened by the enemy’s voice, I can’t rest sir! Mr. Judge, would you please have mercy and help me!)

 Why did Jesus speak this Parable and have it written for us? Because He knew that everyone of us are going to face these times and go through it! The Warfare of the Church in this last day is very real and we are going to have to have a Persistent Faith, Desire and fortitude like this woman. We battle Principalities and Powers. We are up against Wicked spirits in high places, Powers of the Air all around us that are so strong they’re almost tangible – you can feel their evil impulses. We fight against the Rulers of the Darkness of this world.

Dear reader, these forces we wrestle against are very real. They seem at times to hover over you like a heavy blanket. They have voices that are speaking to God’s people. They are present to Resist your prayers. They want to take Faith out of you – show you the negative, tell you what’s the use, you’re not doing any good. They come to resist you so you’ll get tired of the battle and weary from the struggle. They’ll hit you in the morning, hound you through the day. You take your problems to bed with you and wool them in your mind till you get sick of the whole situation and want out of it. But the saddest and scariest part is – People will not take it to God and Pray it through. They won’t pray till they get a break-through.

Child of God, you’re going to have to battle right where you are! Your answer is right where it’s always been before – down on your knees before God the Good Judge of Mercy! He still cares and answers the Persistent Prayers of the Righteous. Don’t get discouraged by delays. Jesus is saying – Don’t let up, this Woman didn’t and she got her answer!

 **V4** – in this Parable Jesus goes on to say - And he (the unjust Judge) would not (answer her) for a while: but **afterward** he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; **V5** – yet Because this Woman TROUBLETH me, I will Avenge her lest by her continual coming she weary me. (What is Jesus saying here? Notice the words for a While and Afterward! This Woman’s desperate need and persistence paid off. By this Greek word for Troubleth, the judge was saying, “This Woman keeps coming back till she has Pulled all my attention to her. She’s constantly knocking at my door. When I’m on other cases it’s her ringing my phone – she keeps coming, she keeps asking until she has now got all my attention! Yes, I will grant her petition so she’ll go on her happy way with the answer she’s earnestly desired!” Jesus is saying – the unjust judge had to focus on that Persistent Soul. Woman, I will settle it for you and take care of your enemy.

 Jesus continues in **V6** - And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

 **V7** - And shall not God avenge His own elect, which Cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them?

 **V8** - I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?

 What are you saying in this Parable Lord? Don’t lose Faith now dear Child. You have strived and labored, don’t be weary and faint. Your service for me is not in vain. Though you have struggled, I have seen the desire of your Heart to live for me. Yes, there’s been times you were weak but it was never in your heart to surrender or ever give up and turn back. You kept pressing, you kept Praying and trusting me. I have heard your cries and seen your tears. I’m going to work it out for you this time too! I look into the Soul, I know the longing and see your desire for Heaven…… I will give you my Grace Child and I WILL take you there!

 What strikes me about this Parable Jesus gave, the Lord made it plain that this Woman KNEW and had the Faith that that Judge had her answer and would help her! That’s the reason she KEPT COMING BACK! A Persevering Faith and Prayer still touches God and moves mountains. It will Save, Heal, Deliver and drive out devils and get rid of the enemy that is tormenting you. God Loves you dear reader, He only wants to know you are determined to serve Him. **Ps. 86:1** – Bow down thine ear O Lord. Hear me for I am poor and needy; for I cry unto thee daily.

A DESPERATE HUNGRY MAN

AT MIDNIGHT

Also in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus gives us another Parable about a desperate man that showed Importunity to get a need met. It is amazing to me that Jesus gives these two stories within just 7 chapters of one another. The point and lesson He is giving us must be very important.

**Luke 11:5** – And He (Jesus) said unto them, which of you shall have a friend and shall go unto him at Midnight and say unto him – Friend, lend me 3 loaves **V6** – for a friend of mine in his journey has come to me and I have nothing to set before him? (That’s being pretty low isn’t it. Pretty empty! If he didn’t have anything to set before him, then he must not have had anything for himself! O how sad when we don’t have enough for ourselves, much less to help anybody else. It caught up with him, caught him off guard when his friend came to him in need and he had nothing to offer the man.) **V7** – says - And he from within shall answer and say – Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. (The door was open at one time, but it is now shut. That’s a pretty strong answer! That man in bed had his mind made up – I’m at rest, the day is over, my work is done, everything is closed up, I’m in bed and I cannot get up and give thee.)

 Would you have turned and went back home? Would you settle for no Bread? What would you have done after hearing those words? May I ask us – How desperate are we? It all depends on how hungry we are! A man or woman would pretty much do anything to keep from starving! **V8** – Jesus says – I say unto you, though he will not rise and give him because he is his friend, yet because of his **Importunity** he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. (Importunity means: Persistence and Perseverance in pleading. Continuing on in prayer without letting up. Refusing to quit or give up in spite of difficulty or opposition. Not stopping until you obtain the answer.)

A LOOK AT THIS EARNEST MAN

 Get a picture of this: This man in this story no doubt tells his traveling friend on a journey - come on in. I know you’ve come to visit me and you’re tired and weary and hungry, but I’m so sorry – I have nothing to set before you. You caught me off guard at a most inopportune time. Sit here at my table and wait on me, I’ve got a good friend I’m going to take my need to and I’ll be right back.

 If someone came to our house tomorrow needing help and prayer, do we have anything to give them spiritually? This man runs to his friend’s house at midnight, a pretty late hour. He stands knocking at the door! A voice from the other side says to him just like the unjust judge said to the Woman, trouble me not! Jesus went into detail about both of these people, how they each had a great need. The woman had a tormenting enemy. Here a man has no bread for the hungry. Both of them did not give up until they got what they needed! The point Jesus is getting over to us must be very important. If we are going to get anything from God, we will have to Pray beyond the Normal! Only desperate prayers will get answers! The greater the need, the greater the Persistence and Importunity must be showed.

 Jesus said because of this man’s Importunity, the man in the closed-up house got up and opened the door and gave him as much as he needed. There’s just something about Praying with Importunity that brings Anticipation and a Faith for the answer!

 Get a picture of the man standing before his friends locked door that had the bread! He knocks and knocks and calls out to his friend. He keeps on until he wakes the man and gets his attention. Faith is all the time rising in his heart – I know he told me everything is locked up, but I know I’m going to get that Bread. Jesus said in **V9** – I say unto you, Ask and it shall be given you; Seek and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. **V10** – For everyone that asketh receiveth and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

 The original Greek for this verse reads – “For everyone that Keeps Asking receiveth and he that keeps Seeking findeth, and to him that keeps Knocking it shall be opened! I truly know this to be true. I know for myself by experience and I have surely seen it in the lives of many good Saints who knew how to pray and did not give up till the answer came. It might have taken time, but I saw God move!

 We too just like this desperate man standing before the door calling out and asking, we can expect an answer. I can almost feel the heart rate of this man picking up with expectancy. He began to watch through the window for the light to come on. Yes, I’m in need and I came here to get that soul satisfying bread and I believe I’m going to get it. Can I tell you that if we’ll earnestly pray, we can look with expectancy for the door knob to turn? There’s no feeling like it to have your ear against Heaven’s door as you pray listening for the Lord’s steps approaching with your answer. O to have your hand on the knob and feel God’s hand turning it to open! Only an earnest heartfelt sincere prayer will be answered this way!

ELIJAH – A MAN OF PRAYER

 Let’s look now at the need of a whole nation falling on one man to get a prayer through! Could it be dear reader that the need of your family or friends is falling on you to be the one who Prays? You’re the one that goes to God in their behalf. You are the one to be the Prayer Warrior in their behalf for their needs.

 There’s no question this mighty Prophet Elijah was a man of Prayer. James tells us in his Epistle **James 5:16-18** - The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

 **17** Elias (Elijah) was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed **earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

 **18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

 This man fasted and was a man of Prayer. He stayed in tune with God. It is amazing to read that in **I Kings 18** – The nation of Israel had been in 3 ½ years of drought because of their sins. Not a drop of rain had fallen and the people were suffering from severe thirst. Elijah prayed a 63 word prayer and God sent fire from Heaven and consumed the Sacrifice. One short Prayer God answered before the face of 850 false prophets and the Israelites who were gathered. God proved Himself real by Elijah’s prayer. We know our God can quickly answer short prayers. But when it came to the rain needed for the drought, notice the story: **1Ki 18:41** ¶ And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

 **42** So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, (A most humble desperate position)

 **43** And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

 **44** And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud **out of the sea**, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

 **45** And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. (Great prayers brings great answers.) God puts these stories in our Bible for us to see and learn. The Lord has not changed. What it took back then for God to move, it will work today.

 Elijah the man of Faith and Power got down on his knees and put his face between his knees and prayed for rain. He tells his servant to Go Up and look toward the sea. He climbed to the top of the mountain and looked out over the sea and came back down and told Elijah – There is nothing! Elijah kept Praying and sent him again and again and again. I don’t know how far the servant had to climb and go to the top, but each trip took a while. All the time Elijah continued to Pray. With each exhausting trip to the top and gazing out over the sea, he saw nothing. I wonder what the Servant thought! I’ve climbed and made 5 trips now and still nothing, not a cloud in the sky. Just hold on, Elijah is Praying!

Did the servant ever question in his mind why? We don’t know! Each trip back with no answer, Elijah says – go again and he continues to pray with his face between his knees. The servant goes the 6th and finally the 7th time to the top and returns to the Praying Prophet and says - “Elijah, Behold, I see a little cloud rising out of the sea like a man’s hand. We don’t know how long it took in the 7 trips – an hour, two, three or more – we don’t know but Elijah’s prayers were causing something to happen. It was bringing the Hand of God down! Something was moving that the servant could not yet see. There was a power that came down and was hovering over the waters causing a mist to form and rise out of the sea and go up. Thank God this man’s prayers were forming a cloud that was loading itself with water that would soon water a nation and relieve a drought stricken land and it would quench the thirst of thousands. The Hand of God was moving!

What is God telling us through our Bible from all the stories we read? What are the lessons to be learned? How many people got answers to their prayers? We’ll never know the number, but these people did not give up, they continued, persevered in prayer until their needed answers came and their needs were met! The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man still availeth much. It still Saves the lost, Heals the sick, Mends broken hearts and sets captives free. It puts food on the table and pays the bills! **Heb. 11:6** – But without Faith, it is Impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that Diligently seek Him! May God richly Bless all my readers!