



## Gary Inrig – The Parables (Reaching God’s Ear)

*Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Struck You – “Strange, New or Different”.*

### **Week 10 – Read Chapter Ten: “Reaching God’s Ear” - Read – Luke 18:1-8**

**Opening Prayer:** Begin this group time asking God to help you understand the importance of **persistent prayer** and to strengthen your commitment to a life of **continual communion** with Him.

**Overview:** Gary explores an important connection between persistence in prayer and spiritual endurance in the Christian life. In **Luke 18:1-8** we see in the parable of the unjust judge, that perseverance in faith is achieved ... **not** through **human determination** or willpower, but through continual **dependence** on God through prayer. Persistence in prayer does not manipulate God or change His character, but instead - transforms how we think and feel and aligns us to His Will – His timing and purposes. The real question - is not whether God will answer, but whether we will maintain faith and continue crying out to Him (persistently) even when we don't see Him moving, and even *until He returns*.

**"Prayer is life passionately wanting, wishing, desiring God's triumph rather than a scheme to get things for ourselves" – G. Campbell Morgan**

### **SOME KEY POINTS:**

#### **1. The Necessity of Persistent Prayer- "They must always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1)**

- Prayer is not optional—it's commanded as God's will for our lives
- The “relief valve” of despair is not determination, but dependence
- We must do nothing without prayer

#### **2. The Parable's Contrast**

- The unjust judge: feared neither God nor people, motivated only by self-interest
- The helpless widow: had no power except persistence
- If an evil judge responds to persistence, how much more will our loving Father respond to His children?

#### **3. God is NOT Like the Unjust Judge**

- God doesn't need to be nagged or manipulated
- We are not helpless widows—we are God's chosen ones
- God's delays are not denials; they serve His sovereign purposes

#### **4. The Challenge - "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"**

- The real question: Can God trust us to keep asking? (Even until He returns).
- If we don't persevere in prayer, we won't persevere in obedience



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Share a time when you had to persevere through a difficult situation. What kept you going? Did you pray? How? How did you feel when you finally got through?

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2. What was Jesus' primary reason for telling this parable according to Luke 18:1? How does this apply to our lives today?

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3. What are the most common reasons you stop praying, "lose heart" or simply forget? What does this reveal about your view of God?

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4. Gary points out that prayer is as "crying out day and night" ... it is an intense, urgent appeal. How does your current prayer life compare to this description?

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5. Gary says that there may be many reasons why God delays answering our prayers:

**A.** God's timing doesn't always match ours. **B.** We're not always fit (ready) to receive what we ask for.

**C.** Persistence clarifies what we really need. **D.** Delay can be part of the fellowship process with God.

Which of these resonates most for you? Have you experienced any of these? Something Else?

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6. What specific situation in your life right now requires persistent prayer? How can this group support you in that?  

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7. Gary challenges us: "**Can God trust us to keep asking?**" How would you answer that question about your own prayer life?  

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### **Things to Do this Week - Try to Put Into Practice One or Two**

1. **Create a "Cry Out" List:** Create a list of 3-5 situations that require persistent prayer. Commit to praying about these daily for the next month, even if you don't see immediate answers.
2. **Prayer Journaling: (Suggested also last week)** Start writing out your prayers and God's answers (including the "not yet" s and "no" s). Review it monthly to see God's faithfulness over time.
3. **Set Prayer Reminders:** Use phone alarms or other triggers throughout the day to remind you to "**pray continually**" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
4. **Accountability Partner:** Pair up with someone in the group to check in daily or weekly about your commitment to persistent prayer.
5. **Group Prayer Focus:** Consider Joining Hope's Monday Night Corporate Prayer Group @ 7pm on our Zoom Meeting Link. Bring at least one significant need to pray about – and release it to God – together with the group. Share with us on what God does.

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**Closing Prayer:** (this prayer is only a suggestion - please be encouraged to pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads) –**Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.**

*Father God, we ask that you help us to pray without ceasing as Your Word declares and You Yourself command us to do. We trust you and thank you for all things – those we noticed and especially for those things that we didn't even notice. We ask that You would - increase our faith and endurance –that we may always be politely persistent in our petitions before You. We thank You Lord that You are not like the unjust judge, but a loving Father who delights to answer us - His children. We pray in Jesus name amen!*