



## **Portraits of Persistence in Prayer**

### **Discuss –**

- 1) Why do we often expect our prayers to be answered immediately? How can the passages below help us better appreciate why that is not always the case?**
- 2) What do these passages teach us about how to align our prayers to God's will? Why do we need to be persistent?**
- 3) Share an example of when you prayed until something happened? How long did it take to see a result? How did you overcome discouragement and temptation to stop praying?**

Close in prayer. Pray for Refuel One Day. Pray until something happens!

## Scripture From The Sermon

### Daniel 10:2-14

In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. <sup>3</sup> I did not eat any <sup>[e]</sup>tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed. <sup>4</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the <sup>[i]</sup>Tigris, <sup>5</sup> I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with *a belt of pure gold of Uphaz*. <sup>6</sup> His body also *was* like <sup>[g]</sup>beryl, his face <sup>[h]</sup>had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a <sup>[i]</sup>tumult. <sup>7</sup> Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves. <sup>8</sup> So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my <sup>[i]</sup>natural color turned to <sup>[k]</sup>a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength. <sup>9</sup> But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

<sup>10</sup> Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my <sup>[l]</sup>hands and knees. <sup>11</sup> He said to me, “O Daniel, man of <sup>[m]</sup>high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand <sup>[n]</sup>upright, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. <sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was <sup>[o]</sup>withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. <sup>14</sup> Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the <sup>[p]</sup>latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet *future*.”

### Luke 11:5-13

Then He said to them, “<sup>[d]</sup>Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; <sup>7</sup> and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children <sup>[e]</sup>and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.’ <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his <sup>[f]</sup>persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. <sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, <sup>[g]</sup>ask, and it will be given to you; <sup>[h]</sup>seek, and you will find; <sup>[i]</sup>knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Now <sup>[j]</sup>suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a <sup>[k]</sup>fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? <sup>12</sup> Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a

scorpion, will he? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* <sup>[1]</sup> heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

### **Luke 18:1-8**

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, <sup>2</sup> saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. <sup>3</sup> There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, '<sup>[a]</sup> Give me legal protection from my opponent.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow bothers me, I will <sup>[b]</sup> give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will <sup>[c]</sup> wear me out.'" <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge \*said; <sup>7</sup> now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, <sup>[d]</sup> and will He delay long over them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find <sup>[e]</sup> faith on the earth?"