



Don't Give Up in Prayer

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever wanted to give up on something? Have you ever invested time, resources, money, etc. for something that you thought was worth it, but eventually came to the point where you threw in the towel? Unfortunately, many people feel that way about prayer. Perhaps God didn't answer their prayer. Perhaps He didn't answer in the timing or in the way that was desired or anticipated. There are many things that cause us to give up in prayer. In this message, we learn directly from Jesus how we are to be a people who persevere in prayer. We can discover the joy that comes from persevering prayer.

READ: Luke 11:1-13

DISCUSSION:

1. Recall a time where you started something but eventually gave up and share it with the group. What did you learn from this experience?
2. At the beginning of Sunday's message, we heard 10 practical reasons for why we give up, which ones could you relate to? Can you think of other reasons that someone might give up? In what ways could those also impact our spiritual life?
3. Take a moment and read the illustration from the sermon notes about the father and son walking down the trail. In what ways are we like the young son? In what ways is the father like our Heavenly Father? What does this teach us about how we should pray?
4. What does it mean to have the right perspective in prayer? In the Scripture illustration, what did the unprepared host suddenly realize? What must we realize if we are to have the right perspective in prayer? How would you have responded if you were the unexpected, unprepared host? Would you have sought for provision? Why/Why not?
5. What are some things that could have easily hindered the host from asking on behalf of his guest? How do we face these same hindrances?
6. Discuss the following questions about the hosts request:
 - a. What exactly did the host ask for? What does this teach us about our requests in prayer?
 - b. How did host respond to the neighbor's refusal? What does this teach us?
 - c. How would you have likely responded?
7. What was Jesus's specific command concerning prayer in verse 9? How is this also taught in 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, Colossians 4:2, Philippians 4:6, and Ephesians 6:18.
8. What did Jesus promise to those who keep asking, seeking and knocking in prayer?
9. How is God described in verse 11? How is this description similar or different than the sleepy, unwilling neighbor?

MAKE IT SO: God is a good Father who invites you to come back, to ask, to seek, and to knock. Rely upon Him this week in a way or area of your life you have not been, through the Holy Spirit, and God will give you what you need. Don't give up in prayer!

READING LIST: **Monday:** Matthew 6:5-15 / **Tuesday:** Luke 18:1-8 / **Wednesday:** Luke 18:9-17 / **Thursday:** Romans 8:18-25 / **Friday:** Romans 8:26-39 / **Saturday:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 / **Sunday:** Ephesians 6:10-18