



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Persistent Prayer Power

July 15, 2018

Luke 18:1-8

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18:1).

Christian prayer is conversation with God: a two-way conversation between our heavenly Father and us, or a conversation between Jesus and us, a conversation where the Holy Spirit within us helps us talk with both. In addition, while we are making our requests to God the Father in Jesus’ name, in heaven Jesus is interceding in our behalf. By word and example, Jesus taught many truths about how we can best talk with God; including, believers “should always pray and not give up.” Our conversation with God includes both our reading the Bible to learn what God says and our conversational response to God. As we learn more about God from God, our prayers become more meaningful to God and us. The more we talk with God, the more we and our prayers improve over time: the more our requests conform to the will of God and the more we learn about the type of things, situations, and people that God wants us to include in our talks with Him. For these reasons and others, Jesus wants us to “always pray and not give up.” Eventually, we learn why God does not respond to some prayers — they are contrary to His character, His commands, or His will. While talking with God, we sometimes begin to thank God that He did not give us all we wanted. God considers all the consequences that will flow from giving people what they ask, and He perfectly times all these consequences to help everyone concerned when answering prayers. By always listening to and talking with God, we continually grow in faith and love for God.

Thinking Further

1. What is a difference between God the Father and an unjust judge?
2. What does a person do to himself who knows the truth and who knows what is right, but then refuses to conform his thoughts to the truth and refuses to do what he knows is right?
3. Describe some differences between self-centeredness and Christ-centeredness.
4. Give one or two reasons why our answers to our prayers might be delayed.
5. When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

Read the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) on this *International Bible Lesson*.

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