



We're dedicating the entire month to studying prayer. The month of January can be a time where many people seek to make changes in their life and what better change can we make than spending more time communicating with God. Not only are we looking at what Scripture teaches on prayer but in Luke 18, Jesus teaches us about praying and never giving up. Studies show that only about 9% of people who set New Year's resolutions actually stick with them through the year. In addition to that, 23% of resolution-makers quit within the first week, and 43% quit by the end of January. Instead of quitting, let's study about prayer and learn to grow in spiritual maturity.

1. Neal shared a story about how he and his son prayed for God to give them a house with an avocado tree. God answered that prayer for them. What is a prayer you prayed, big or small, that God answered recently in your life?
2. Read **Luke 18:1-3**. Jesus taught the disciples to not give up in their prayer life. As you reflect on your Christian walk, is there a prayer you gave up on? What caused you to stop praying for this certain thing?
3. Jesus taught the disciples to engage in continual prayer, not continuous prayer. Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, Romans 12:12, and Ephesians 6:18. How do these verses invite us to be persistent in prayer in a way that's realistic for everyday life?
4. Read **Luke 18:4-5**. The widow was so persistent in her request that the judge thought she would wear him out. Share with your group a prayer that you really want to see God answer and you are trusting the outcome to Him.
5. Read **Luke 11:1-4**. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Notice that Jesus said: "When you pray" not "if you pray." How has this sermon series impacted your understanding and has it changed anything about how you pray?
6. Read **Luke 18:6-8**. God doesn't ignore the requests of His people but will come to the aid of His people. Read 1 Samuel 1:9–20, Jonah 2:1–10 and Acts 12:5–17. When you read these instances of God working, how does that increase your faith?
7. At the end of our passage Jesus didn't ask if we would be religious but if He would find faith when He returns. Read Hebrews 11:6, Romans 10:17, and Mark 11:24. What do these verses teach us about how faith grows as we continue to pray, even when answers don't come in our desired timeframe?
8. Close your time in prayer asking God to give you a persistent prayer life.