

## TOPIC: THE BLESSING OF PERSISTENCE

Persistence in our pursuit of God will lead to consistent, authentic, life-altering experiences with Jesus.

### KEY POINTS

1. Jesus illustrates the blessing of persistence in our main scripture reading.
2. In verse 1 of Luke Chapter 1, the scripture tells us that Jesus was in a certain place praying.
3. The disciples observe Jesus praying and ask Him to teach them how to pray. There must have been something compelling about the way Jesus was praying that prompted them to make that request of Him.
4. Jesus then proceeds to share with the disciples the prayer that we have identified as "The Lord's Prayer".
5. The wording in Luke is slightly different than the wording in Matthew, but the sentiment is the same (see Matthew 6).
6. Jesus was trying to help His disciples understand how they should communicate with God.
7. This emphasizes the point that is important for us to communicate with God. That is important to spend time with the Lord.
8. It has been evident since the beginning of creation that God is very interested in having a relationship with human beings (see Genesis 3:8-9).
9. It is important for us to spend time communicating with God through prayer and Bible reading.
10. Once Jesus had finished sharing with His disciples The Lord's Prayer, He then proceeded to share a story illuminating the blessings of persistence (Luke 11:5-8).
11. The Greek word in verse 5 translated "importunity" in the KJV (King James Version of the Bible) and "persistence" in the NAS (New American Standard Version), means "shamelessness, persistence".
12. Persistence conveys the idea of urgency, boldness and relentlessness.
13. Quotes attributed to writers Claude M. Bristol and Johann von Goethe, respectively, work well together to define the concept of persistence:  
- "It's the constant and determined effort that breaks down all resistance and sweeps away all obstacles."  
- "Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do."
14. There are some things that can only be accomplished through a sense of urgency, a degree of boldness and a relentless pursuit.

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 11:5-13

1. Persistence is most effectively pursued on the basis of faith and knowledge. This is clear from Jesus' comments to His disciples in Luke 11.
2. He encouraged the disciples' faith in verses 9-10 and emphasized the knowledge of God's love in verses 11-13.
3. The woman with an issue of blood believed that if she was able to physically touch Jesus, her medical condition could be healed (Mark 5:25-34).
4. When Jacob was left wrestling with God all night, he had to have the knowledge that the Lord was in possession of the help he desperately needed (Genesis 32:24-28).  
▶ The blessing of persistence in our pursuit of God will lead to us having consistent, authentic, life-altering experiences with Jesus (Philippians 3:13-15).

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What do you think was so compelling about the way that Jesus prayed that His disciples were prompted to ask Him to teach them how to pray?
2. Identify and describe various components of persistence.
3. Do you agree that a sense of urgency is important to the practice of persistence? Discuss, with explanations.
4. Discuss one way the blessing of persistence can assist you with having consistent, authentic, life-altering experiences with Jesus.
5. Discuss how faith and knowledge are important in persistently pursuing God.







### Prayer Time

Lord, please help me persistently pursue after You so that I can have consistent, authentic, life-altering experiences.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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L.G. Ice-Breaker: Share a hobby/activity that you devote time and energy to (quilting, marathon-running, study/research, etc.). Why do you do it?