



~ Persistence in Prayer – Part 1 ~

“And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” – Luke 18:7-8

Many times throughout Jesus’ ministry, he spent the night in prayer with God. Usually, it wasn’t after a day of leisure, but rather after a full day of working with people and knee-deep in ministry.

On one occasion, Jesus had fed 5,000 people and spent a day in ministry. As evening drew near, He sent the people and His disciples away to spend the rest of the night in prayer with His Father. He needed it. The people had been about ready to crown Him king themselves, their way. He knew He would need back-up in order to reach them for the truth, so He reconnected to the Source of Life. The result? He walked on water and had Peter join Him! (*Mathew 14:13-34*)

It’s interesting to note that each time the bible records that Jesus spent the night in prayer, extraordinary things happened in his ministry. One night, He walked on water, the next He was transfigured before His friends and received the glory of God. (*Luke 9:28-36*) Another time, He chose the 12 apostles that would be the future of the Christian church. (*Luke 6:12-16*) And the crowning act of all, was the endurance He received to pass the mighty test of the cross and receive victory for His kingdom and His people! (*Luke 22:39-46; Colossians 2:15*)

Prayer vigils are almost a lost art. Yet, Jesus set the perfect example for it thousands of years ago. When our ministry is great and the cost is everything, we need focus and ability through the power of the Holy Spirit to not steer off course and fall on our own understanding.

How much more do we need that today? We are called to be the lights of the world. If there was ever a need for the power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and in our communities, it is now. We need healing in our land. We need healing in our families, in our relationships, with each other, and with God. This healing starts with us.

Sometimes these breakthroughs must come from persistence at the feet of Jesus. God has promised healing and victory to those who cry out to Him and look to Him persistently for deliverance. However, how many times do we give up? How often do we let our circumstances change our outlook? Do we really have the faith to not give up in prayer until we are delivered? Will Jesus find faith on earth when He returns?

The answer is yes. But “who” that will be is up to you and me. What deliverance do you need in your life? Do you lack direction or purpose? Do you see your need for a deeper relationship with Jesus, but aren’t sure you can follow? Jesus has promised to give to those who ask. *“If you seek me, you will find me, if you seek me with all your hearts.” – Jeremiah 29:13* It may not be easy, but persistence in prayer is ALWAYS worth it; the bigger the cost, the greater the victory.

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