

MASTERCLASS #2

A Beginner's Guide to Effective Biblical Nagging

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 18:1-8

Discussion Questions

1. Share about a time your nagging of someone paid off. How about a time (or two) when it didn't?
2. **THE SITUATION (v. 2-5):** Nagging is usually detrimental to marriage and other relationships, but the Bible actually encourages us to "nag." God wants us to "nag" Him in prayer. Read Luke 18:1-8. In this passage, God gives us a guide to effective Biblical nagging. How did Jesus refer to the judge in the story (v. 2)? What did the widow want from him (v. 3). Why did the judge finally yield to her appeal (v. 4-5)?
3. **A TRUTH ABOUT GOD (v. 6-8).** This parable tells us that unlike the unjust judge who responded only because of the woman's nagging, God responds quickly so that His beloved people would get justice. God never gets tired hearing your prayer request even if it is the same thing over and over again. Persistence in prayer is effective with God. How does it make you feel that God enjoys hearing from you and wouldn't mind you "nagging" Him with the same prayer request? Would God responding to your nagging mean that He would always answer your prayers according to how you wanted it answered? Why does God not give quick answers to every need that you bring up to Him in prayer?
4. The Parable of the Persistent Widow teaches us three lessons to help us understand the importance of perseverance in prayer:
 - a. **Lesson #1: Prayer acknowledges that God is able to do it (v. 1).** Effective Biblical nagging is conditional to the fact that the one you are asking to do something can actually do it. You pray because you believe that God can answer your prayer. What are the kinds of need that you can bring to God in prayer? Share about a need that you prayed for knowing that God alone could help you in that need.

- b. **Lesson #2: Persistence is the key to effective prayer (v. 2).** God is inviting you to nag Him. Unlike most of us who may be annoyed with nagging, God actually enjoys it. Your persistence in asking expresses that what you are asking is really something you need. Persistent prayers draws you closer to God. What is it that you pray for everyday? Discuss why a lot of Christians do not pray often enough for something he or she needs. Why do they stop praying? What does it mean to be steadfast in your prayers?
- c. **Lesson #3: Persistent prayer is maintained when one does not lose heart (v. 3).** Persistent prayer can be discouraging sometimes because it would seem that God is not answering. However, the Bible says, "Do not lose heart!" God not always answer prayers is for your own good. How does faithfulness in prayers give you hope in the midst of disappointments? Share something that you have prayed for in the past that God did not answer right away (or did not grant) which you are now thankful about. What does that experience teach you about God's will and perfect timing?

Walk

Isn't it amazing how God wants us to talk to Him even to the extent of nagging Him? We pray because we acknowledge that God is able to answer our prayers, whether it is a yes or no, or whether the answer is immediate or takes a long time coming. God is able, yet He works according to His will and timetable, and so *persistence* is the key to effective prayer. That persistence is maintained when one does not lose heart. Our prayer ceases to be effective when we cease to pray. Think about how this parable teaches you about what your prayer life should be like. How can you safeguard your heart from giving up praying when you do not see quick results?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching me how to pray persistently. Thank You that You don't get tired listening to me, that I can talk to You about anything in my life without fear of being judged or ignored. Help me to trust Your will and timing, that when I don't see an answer to my prayers right away, I won't lose heart. Draw me closer to You, Lord, by helping me keep in touch with You with my needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.