

Don't Give Up on Prayer Pray As Jesus Taught – Part 4

Life Church St. Louis February 1, 2026
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Scan for



Links

Introduction

Colossians 4:2 (ESV) Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Galatians 6:9 (ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Hebrews 10:36 (ESV) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

1. Refuse to Quit Praying When God Feels Silent

Luke 18:1 (ESV) And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Luke 18:2 (ESV) He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man."

Luke 18:3 (ESV) And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

2. Trust God's Character When Timing Tests Your Faith

Luke 18:4 (ESV) For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man,'

Luke 18:5 (ESV) yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.

Luke 18:7 (ESV) And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

Luke 18:8 (ESV) I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

3. Approach God with Humility, Not Self-Reliance

Luke 18:9 (ESV) He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt.

Luke 18:10-11 (ESV) Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, ... or even like this tax collector.

Luke 18:13-14 (ESV) But the tax collector ...saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Don't Give Up on Prayer Study Guide

Pray As Jesus Taught – Part 4

Life Church St. Louis February 1, 2026
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Introduction.

1. Why do you think people are often tempted to give up on prayer when answers seem delayed?
2. How does continuing steadfastly in prayer shape your awareness of God's work in your life, even when answers are not yet visible (Colossians 4:2)?
3. What does it look like to guard your heart against weariness while waiting for God's promises to unfold (Galatians 6:9)?
4. How have you experienced the need for endurance in your faith as you wait to receive what God has promised (Hebrews 10:36)?

1. Refuse to Quit Praying When God Feels Silent.

1. What does it mean to you personally to always pray and not lose heart when God seems silent (Luke 18:1)?
2. How does understanding the character of the unjust judge help you better appreciate the difference between him and God (Luke 18:2)?
3. What does the widow's persistence teach you about faith and perseverance in times of helplessness (Luke 18:3)?
4. What is one prayer you are tempted to stop praying because it feels unanswered, and how can you choose to persist instead?

2. Trust God's Character When Timing Tests Your Faith.

1. What does the judge's delayed response reveal about human authority compared to God's character (Luke 18:4)?
2. How does the widow's continual coming challenge your understanding of persistence in prayer (Luke 18:5)?
3. How do Jesus' words about God bringing justice to His people encourage you to trust Him when answers seem delayed (Luke 18:7–8)?
4. In what area of your life is God inviting you to trust His timing more deeply rather than growing discouraged?

3. Approach God with Humility, Not Self-Reliance.

1. How can trusting in yourself rather than God subtly affect your attitude toward prayer and others (Luke 18:9)?
2. What stands out to you about the Pharisee's prayer, and how might similar attitudes appear in your own prayers (Luke 18:10–11)?
3. Why does Jesus highlight humility as the posture that leads to justification and grace (Luke 18:13–14)?
4. How can you practice greater humility and dependence on God in your daily prayer life this week?

Conclusion.

1. What prayer have you nearly abandoned, and what would it look like to begin bringing it before God again with renewed faith?
2. How does remembering God's faithfulness help you persevere in prayer when answers take longer than expected?