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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

25. The Dynamic of Perseverance

This chapter argues that persistence is essential to prevailing prayer. Using the parable of the persistent widow, it teaches believers not to quit praying once they know God's will on a matter, but to continue until the answer comes and the prayer burden lifts.

Key takeaways

- Jesus taught we should be like the persistent widow, praying and not giving up (Luke 18:1-5).
- Many prayers are granted by God but abandoned by the ones praying before the answer arrives.
- Don't let emotions guide your praying. Discouragement is a feeling, not a sign of God's will.
- Give God time. Delays can come from demonic resistance (Daniel waited 21 days), from circumstances needing to align, from God pruning your own life, or from the cumulative buildup of much prayer.
- Prayers in God's will are never lost. Scripture pictures them stored up until God gives the answer.

- History shows the pattern: George Mueller prayed nearly 52 years for five friends; Monica prayed 20 years for Augustine; John Newton's mother's prayers prevailed after 22 years; pioneer missionaries labored seven years before a first convert.
- Some strongholds—especially where occultism or idolatry is entrenched—require prolonged or amassed prayer, and sometimes fasting, before breakthrough.

Passages worth keeping

“It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright... but we must patiently, believing, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer.”

George Mueller's formula, the chapter's core thesis on perseverance.

“Resolved that I will pray once each day for each member of my class by name and agonize in prayer and expect a blessing.”

A Sunday school teacher's diary progression—naming, agonizing, expecting—that saw every student converted.

How it connects

The chapter frames perseverance not as nagging a reluctant God, but as faith that holds on because God's timing—though a mystery to us—is perfect.

Scripture referenced

- **Luke 18:1-5** -- Parable of the persistent widow; pray and don't give up.
- **Daniel 10:12-13** -- Answer heard on day one but delayed 21 days by demonic resistance.
- **John 15:2** -- God prunes the vine; delays can be Him removing hindrances in us.
- **Galatians 6:9** -- Reap at the proper time if we do not give up.
- **Revelation 5:8; 8:3-5** -- Prayers stored up before God, never lost.
- **Mark 9:29** -- Some cases yield only to increased prayer (and fasting).