

Persistent Prayer

by Charles E. Cowman

The sermon emphasizes the importance of persistent prayer and unwavering faith in the face of challenges and unanswered petitions.

Scripture: Matthew 7:7, Luke 18:1, Philippians 3:14, Hebrews 10:36, James 5:16

Topics: "Persistent Prayer", "Faith And Perseverance"

Description

Charles E. Cowman emphasizes the importance of persistent prayer and unwavering faith in God, drawing inspiration from various anecdotes and examples. He highlights the story of Tammerlane finding courage from an ant's perseverance, Rubenstein's dedication to practice in music, and David Livingstone's determination to achieve his purpose. Cowman stresses that prayer of faith does not waver due to unanswered prayers but sees it as evidence that the answer is nearer, echoing the lessons from Jesus on persevering in prayer and renewing one's strength through continuous supplication.

Transcript

"Men ought always to pray and not to faint" (Luke18:1).

"Go to the ant." Tammerlane used to relate to his friends an anecdote of his early life. "I once he said, "was forced to take shelter from my enemies in a ruined building, where I sat alone many hours. Desiring to divert my mind from my hopeless condition, I fixed my eyes on an ant that was carrying a grain of corn larger than itself up a high wall. I numbered the efforts it made to accomplish this object. The grain fell sixty-nine times to the ground; but the insect persevered, and the seventieth time it reached the top. This sight gave me courage at the moment, and I never forgot the lesson. --The King's Business

Prayer which takes the fact that past prayers have not been answered as a reason for languor, has already ceased to be the prayer of faith. To the prayer of faith the fact that prayers remain unanswered is only evidence that the moment of the answer is so much nearer. From first to last, the lessons and examples of our Lord all tell us that prayer which cannot persevere and urge its plea importunately, and renew, and renew itself again, and gather strength from every past petition, is not the prayer that will prevail. --William Arthur

Rubenstein, the great musician, once said, "If I omit practice one day, I notice it; if two days, my friends notice it; if three days, the public notice it." It is the old doctrine, "Practice makes perfect." We must continue believing, continue praying, continue doing His will. Suppose along any line of art, one should

cease practicing, we know what the result would be. If we would only use the same quality of common sense in our religion that we use in our everyday life, we should go on to perfection.

The motto of David Livingstone was in these words, "I determined never to stop until I had come to the end and achieved my purpose." By unfaltering persistence and faith in God he conquered.

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