

Bulldog Faith is Persistent
Sunday, July 14, 2019

A. Luke 18:1-8 (AMPC) Persistent Faith

1. Verse 1 Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up).

Note: Don't let up on your faith.

2. Verse 2 He said, In a certain city there was a judge who neither revered and feared God nor respected or considered man.

3. Verse 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Protect and defend and give me justice against my adversary.

Note: (NLT) She came to him repeatedly.

4. Verse 4 And for a time he would not; but later he said to himself, Though I have neither reverence or fear for God nor respect or consideration for man,

Note: Don't let time affect your faith.

5. Verse 5 Yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend and protect and avenge her, lest she give me intolerable annoyance and wear me out by her continual coming or at the last she come and rail on me or assault me or strangle me.

Note: (NLT) This woman is driving me crazy! She is wearing me out by her constant requests.

Note: Persistence wears down resistance.

6. Verse 6 Then the Lord said, Listen to what the unjust judge says!

7. Verse 7 And will not [our just] God defend and protect and avenge His elect (His chosen ones), who cry to Him day and night? Will he defer them and delay help on their behalf?

Note: "Crying day and night" is relentlessly declaring the Word and standing in faith.

8. Verse 8 I tell you, He will defend and protect and avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?

B. Persistence Defined

1. Persistence is a firm or obstinate continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.
2. Persistence applies non stop, constant, continual, steady, relentless pressure to a situation.
3. Persistence does not let go or give up until all resistance is broken and the desired result is attained.

C. The Widow was Persistent

1. She didn't take "no" for an answer.
2. She was relentless and insistent.
3. She did not stop until she got what she wanted.
4. She refused to give up.
5. She tenaciously, stubbornly and persistently kept coming and would not quit.

D. Examples of Persistence

1. 1 Samuel 17 Goliath was persistent.
 - a. Verses 8-11 (NLT) Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.
 - b. Verse 16 (NLT) For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.
 - c. Think what would happen if we were persistent for forty days and nights
2. Judges 16:16,17 Delilah was persistent
 - a. (KJV) When she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death, that he told her all his heart.
 - i. Proverbs 7:21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
 - b. (Darby) Delilah started nagging and pestering him day after day, until he couldn't stand it any longer.
 - c. (GWB) She kept on asking him, day after day. He got so sick and tired of her bothering him about it that he finally told her the truth.

- d. (GK) Every day she made his life miserable with her questions. She pestered him until he wished he were dead.
 - e. (MSG) She kept at it day after day, nagging and tormenting him. Finally, he was fed up--he couldn't take another minute of it. He spilled it.
3. Persistence wears down resistance.

E. How Persistent Faith Works

- 1. The widow came daily with words.
- 2. Goliath came daily with words.
- 3. Delilah came daily with words.
- 4. We must come daily with persistent words of faith.
- 5. We are going to have to apply non-stop, constant, steady, relentless pressure on the Word, the covenant and the devil—not letting go and not giving up until all resistance is broken and the desired result is attained.
- 6. We must...
 - a. Keep on saying by faith.
 - b. Keep on believing by faith.
 - c. Keep on receiving by faith.
 - d. Keep on pressing by faith.
- 7. Persistence wears down resistance.

F. Persistent Faith Confession

In the name of Jesus, I have persistent, Bulldog Faith.
I won't give up.
I won't let go until my mission is accomplished.

I apply pressure to my covenant.
I apply pressure to the devil.
I will continue...

- ...to stand on the Word.
- ...to live by love.
- ...to walk by faith and not by sight.

I will keep doing this until all resistance is broken
and I have the desired result.

I am stubborn!
I am tenacious!
I am persistent!

My Bulldog, persistence wears down the devil's resistance!