

Persistence in Prayer

A devout Scottish preacher named John Welsh would kneel at his bedside and pray for members of his church before retiring for the night.

His wife was known to say, "Come to bed, John; it's too cold." His response to her was always the same: "But dear, I have the souls of 3,000 people to answer for, and I do not know how it is with many of them."



It is one thing to pray, but it is altogether another to pray without giving up until the answer to your prayers is received. Jesus taught the disciples a parable about a widow who wouldn't give a judge any peace until she got what she needed. The lesson? That people "always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1-8).

Jesus easily could have told them the story of Daniel, who prayed for 21 days before he received an answer from heaven – an answer delayed by spiritual warfare in the heavenlies (Daniel 10:1 – 11:1).

As Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego, Calif., says in his book *Turning Points*: "What if Daniel had given up praying after a week. After two weeks? No wonder God blessed Daniel with an understanding of mysteries revealed to no one else. If you are praying and waiting on an answer, don't stop! The answer may be just another prayer away."

So whatever the concern of your heart may be today, keep taking it to the Lord.

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16).

– Beecher Hunter