

# Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

May 2024

## Persistence in Prayer

*And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. – Lk. 18:1*

Many Christians struggle to pray. Even the renowned theologian J. I. Packer confessed he found prayer to be challenging. In a book he co-authored with Carolyn Nystrom, titled, *Praying*, Packer writes, “while prayer is unquestionably natural, necessary and normal for Christian people, it constantly proves in practice to be the very opposite of plain sailing.” Very true.

While there are several reasons why Christians find prayer difficult, I think one major reason concerns God’s apparent lack of response. Because quick answers to prayer are not often forthcoming, many believers find their desire to pray tempered. After all, some may reason, “I prayed about this matter for weeks and nothing happened in response to my prayers, so why should I continue to pray? It appears to make no difference at all.” Why indeed? Why persist in our prayers when it seems God is unwilling to respond? The simple answer is: because Jesus tells us to.

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus told his disciples a parable about an importunate widow, who eventually was given justice by an unrighteous judge, in order to teach them to pray and not give up, even if God does not quickly answer their prayers. And what was true for the disciples in Christ’s day is true for us. We must not lose heart when God does not give speedy answers to our prayers. Rather, we must patiently persist in our petitions to him.

And while our persistence is not a guarantee God will answer in the way we pray, as though our importunate petitioning strongarms God into giving us what he would not give otherwise, our persistence in prayer, despite no answers, is not without benefit. J. I. Packer in his book, *Praying*, cites four that I find encouraging.

First, persistent prayer glorifies God. It shows we appreciate God as the source of all that is good.

Second, persistent prayer reveals our hope is in God alone. When we tenaciously petition God in prayer despite his seeming silence, we show both the acuteness of our need and God’s greatness as the only one who can meet that need. By this clarity with which we realize God is our only hope, we draw closer to him and grow in our dependence upon him.

Third, persistent prayer increases our thanksgiving to God. The more earnestly we seek God in prayer and the longer we wait for his answer, the more we will value it when it is given, and the greater will be our thankfulness and joy.

Fourth, persistent prayer strengthens the muscles of our faith. God’s plans for us and the things for which we pray, may require him to withhold what we ask for until the best time and circumstances are reached. Thus, to keep petitioning God with patient persistence and to wait with expectation for his answer is sometimes necessary. And as we wait for God’s answer, our faith in him grows stronger as we continue to exercise our spiritual muscles by importunate prayer.

So let us not lose heart when answers to our prayers do not come quickly. Instead, let us continue to persistently petition our great and gracious God who hears our prayers and always answers them, in his time and in his way, that proves best for us and glorifying to him.



Have you ever noticed the glass cabinet in the vestibule as you entered the church? This is our Thankfulness and Gratitude cabinet. If you have something that you are thankful for or want to share your gratitude with your church family... this is perfect place to do that. It can be a picture or any item that has touched your heart that we can display for a short time. They will be returned to you. Being thankful and showing our gratitude, is part of God's blessings that each of us have received.

Contact Brigette in the office if you have any questions or have something you would like to display.

**Pennies for Missions**

Just a reminder that the WIC is still collecting pennies for our missionaries! If you have any spare change that you've been looking to get rid of, feel free to drop it in the container in the Foyer or in the Sunday School Rooms.

The money will be used to help the Missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.



**byFaith is now Digital-Only**

**byFaith is now digital-only. Instead of a quarterly print magazine delivered to your church, readers can now subscribe at [byfaithonline.com](http://byfaithonline.com) to receive e-news in their inbox. Visit [byfaithonline.com](http://byfaithonline.com) for the news and articles you've read for years.**

Dear Friends at Grace,

It was a joy to visit with you all last month. Thanks for having me and for your interest in the work in Acapulco.

Also, many thanks for the support you have given me and also the special gifts you have sent to the school.

In less than 3 weeks I'll be back in Acapulco. Oh yes, and thank you for your prayers as I get back in to all the things going on there.

Blessings, Ellen



Dear Grace church friends,

My family and I want to thank you for all the prayers, calls, cards and food that you did for us in the passing of Frank. The plant is also beautiful and I will think of you every time I look at it. God has blessed me even in this sad time, and you really showed us your love to us.

Thank you again, Marsha Allison

***A Mother's Prayer***

Lord, when this world leaves me exhausted,  
Let me turn to You for strength and for  
courage.

When I follow Your will for my life  
You will energize me.  
Let your will be my will, Lord,  
And let me find my strength in you.



*Amen*

**Praying for our Nation...**

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

*“First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way.”*

*(I Timothy 2: 1-2)*



Blessed  
is the NATION  
whose  
GOD  
is the LORD.  
Psalm 33:12



**Please Join us every Wednesday**

**Time: 10:30**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**  
**Rev. Jim Gorski will be teaching from the book**  
**“Survey of the New Testament”**  
**By**  
**Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.**



What do you know about Jonah?  
 This book of the Bible is more than just about a man and a fish!!  
 What do you know about Habakkuk?  
 It is a book of the Bible also!  
 These questions are being answered the second Tuesday of the month at our Circle Meeting. God is teaching us how we can use these examples and events in our every day life. Please join us at 10am the second Tuesday of every month at Grace as we look at "God's Cranky Prophets".  
 We have a great time of study, prayer, and fellowship.  
 If you have any questions please contact Marsha Allison

### *Calendar of Activities for the Month*

**Men of the Covenant :** Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 pm  
**Session Meeting:**  
**WIC Circle Meeting:** Tuesday, May 14, 10:00 am  
**Prayer for our Nation:** Wednesdays at 10:00 am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 10:30 am

*The church office will be closed Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.*



## Christian Inquiry

A Blog About Topics and Views of Interest to

Christians from

Dr. Gaylan McLin, JD, ThD

[www.christianinquiry.com](http://www.christianinquiry.com)

Recent Article:

*The Kingdom of God*

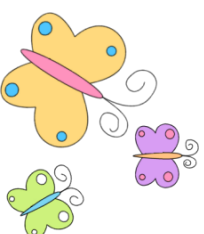
### *The Lord's Supper*

Grace PCA will observe the sacrament of Holy Communion at a later date. This will be announced at a later time pending Rev. Jim's return.





2024



**“Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart.”**

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

**Luke 2:51**

			1 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	2 6:30 pm Men of the Covenant	3	4
5	6	7	8 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	9	10	11
12 <i>HAPPY Mother's Day</i>	13	14 10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting	15 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	23	24	25
26	27 <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i>	28	29 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	30	31	



*“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”*

*Psalm 139:13-14*

**Sundays : 9:15 a.m. Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service**

*Grace Presbyterian Church*  
Presbyterian Church in America  
9526 Joor Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

# Grace Notes

 *Happy Mother's Day* May 2024

## *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* by Will. L. Thompson

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me;  
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me.



*Come home, come home,  
You who are weary, come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
Calling, O sinner, come home!*

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, Mercies for you and for me?

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, Passing from you and from me;  
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, Coming for you and for me.

Oh, for the wonderful love He has promised, Promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me.