

Priorities of Faith

DAY 6 — GRIT, PASSION, AND PERSEVERANCE [TOUGHNESS, STRONG DESIRE, AND NOT GIVING UP]

“Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will harvest, if we don’t give up.” (Gal. 6:9)

Spiritual Grit [Toughness]

We do not always think about “grit” [toughness] in our spiritual lives. But the same as grit is important in other areas of our lives (sports, learning, successful business), it is also important for us in daily becoming more like Jesus. It is hard to succeed without grit. Grit means having strong desire and not giving up on a goal we care about. To meet our goal, we need to let nothing distract us in our lives. We need the same grit in our relationship with God, and we especially need it in our prayer life. Too often, we do not see results from our prayers because we are not persistent enough. Maybe we get distracted or we give up and do not believe that God can hear us and help us in ways we cannot understand. In Luke 18, Jesus tells His disciples the story of a widow who continued again and again to bring her case to an unfair judge. Although this judge did not care about God or the woman, he finally gave the widow her request because she kept asking without giving up (Luke 18:1-7). But God is not like the unfair judge; God does care about our prayer requests. God is always ready to help more than we can understand (Jer. 33:3).

What we need today, in our marriages, in our classrooms and dorms, in our churches and homes, are people who pray. Not just people who talk about prayer, or people who say they believe in prayer, or people who can give nice explanations about prayer. We need people who actually take the time to pray!

Persistence [Continue - Don’t Give Up]

God does not work to do things faster and cheaper. In the great controversy [battle] between God and Satan we need persistent prayer. We must be passionate and not give up in our prayers because God’s time does not always follow our human understanding. God rarely does the easiest thing when working out His plans. God is not interested in the easy way but in the best way! In our prayers, let us not accept less or be satisfied with limited, short-term goals. God is happy when we continue in our prayers without giving up.

My father was a successful evangelist and pastor. In his study room, he had a quote from Ellen G. White that I always remember: “The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are won by talent or education, by money or by being liked by people. The greatest victories are won spending time before God, when deep, heartfelt faith holds onto God’s mighty arm of power” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 203).

Let’s pray together.

Prayer Time (30–45 Minutes)

All prayer groups have different ways of praying together. We want you to spend the next 30-45 minutes praying together, however the Holy Spirit leads you. Short informal prayers (1-3 sentences) are good. This way, more people can pray many times. Below are some examples of praying with Bible verses based on the theme. You may also pray through other Bible verses and include other topics in your prayer time. See the Leader's Guide and World Church Prayer Requests for other prayer ideas.

Praying God's Word — Gal. 6:9

"Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will harvest, if we don't give up."

"Let Us Not Grow Become Tired of Doing Good"

Jesus, You are the most persistent Being in the universe. You did not give up in Your ministry of interceding and intervention. No matter what Satan and sinners do to You, You do not change, and in love, You give Yourself to us. God we are in awe of you. Teach us to be unselfish and persistent, especially in our prayer life. Make us prayer warriors who do not give up. Amen.

"At the Right Time We Will Harvest"

Our loving God, we praise You for allowing us to join you in Your mission on this planet. Thank You for the joy of service and the joy of working to bring people to You. Sometimes we feel hopeless and ready to give up, but we pray that You will give us the persistence and spiritual grit [toughness] needed to do the work You have called us to do. Thank You that You will bless our work and that we will see the results of this blessed ministry. Amen.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to give wisdom for today's challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Pray for local and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).

Local Requests: Pray for needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Work, for the Night Is Coming (#375); Trust and Obey (#590); Higher Ground (#625)

Other Songs: I Shall Not Be Moved; Dare to Be a Daniel; He's Able