



# HOMEGROWN

## Discipleship

## Practicing Persistence - 5/3/2020

### OVERVIEW

Gardening takes time, practice and consistent steps in a growing season. Just like gardening, our walk with Jesus also takes intentionality. Growing as a disciple has two parts. It has God's part, the part where He makes us into a disciple by the power of His Spirit. And the second part requires training, effort and work on our part. As part of this intentionality, **Jesus calls us to Practice Persistent Prayer**. He is inviting us to come to Him over and over and over again. To bring our fears, doubts, requests, etc. to Him. How will we be transformed by God's kindness and love through our conversations with Him?

Scripture (all scripture ESV, unless noted): 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 (NLT); 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NLT); Luke 18:1-7 (NIV); Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### APPLICATION

- You may have heard the quote, "Practice makes perfect." but there is another popular quote that I believe is more accurate: "Practice makes Progress." Over the last few weeks, how has your chair time or prayer training made progress? Share anything you have seen as a positive change.
- Jeremy shared a statistic that said, "Searches on the internet for prayer double for every 80k new registered cases of Covid-19." Given this statistic, we are 20 times more likely to google prayer now than we were two months ago. Why do you think people are searching for the topic of prayer? What are they looking for?
- In Luke 18, Jesus shares a parable about a widow who persistently asks, and asks, and asks a judge for justice. Because of her persistence the judge is moved to action. Through this parable and other scriptures, Jesus calls us to **Practice Persistent Prayer**. What does this invitation tell us about the character of God?
- There is power when God's people practice persistent prayer. How have you seen this to be true in your own life?

HOMEWORK: To help you get started, or to enhance what you're already doing in your chair time, we will continue the YouVersion Bible plans together as a church body. To join a Blue Ridge reading group, sign-up at [www.blueridge.org/readingplan](http://www.blueridge.org/readingplan). Also this week, in addition to praying through Scripture, we will add the Practice of Persistent Prayer. You can join a zoom prayer time Monday through Friday. To find out more information go to [www.blueridge.org/prayertime](http://www.blueridge.org/prayertime).

