



## Church School December 10, 2017

Title of Lesson Having the Mindset to Keep Knocking

- What is the most difficult aspect to living as a Christian? Why?

**Luke 11:5-9** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

5 Then He said to them, “[a] Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children [b] and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.’ 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his [c] persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. 9 “So I say to you, [d] ask, and it will be given to you; [e] seek, and you will find; [f] knock, and it will be opened to you.

- What was the message that Jesus was trying to convey?

Was the focus on what the friend was asking for? Was the focus on what time the friend knocked on the door? No. What got the friend to open the door was not what he was asking for nor at what time he asked for it. It was the friend persistence. *In order for a strong foundation of faithfulness to be built in us, we must be steadfast in what we put our hands to do. In both the spiritual and the natural. This is the type of faith(fulness) that pleases God.*

**Hebrews 11:6** (NKJV)

6 But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

### True Faithfulness

**Hebrews 11:8** (NKJV)

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (Remember Isaac)

What specifically did Abraham do to get God's attention? Genesis 22:15-19

*God takes notice when we are faithful not just to start something, but when we are faithful all the way to the conclusion.*

Whenever you watch a race, game, or sport of any kind, it is often obvious that the players are giving their all at the beginning of the event. However, as the contest proceeds towards the end, the test of the players' will, strength, and fortitude shown through their ability to finish just as strongly as they started. Any good coach will often tell his/her players “it's not about how you start, but how you finish.”

- What did you start at the beginning of 2017 that you quit on?
  - (Praying, Fasting, Starting Businesses, Organization, Exercise)

**Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)**

**The Parable of the Persistent Widow**

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'" 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

*God is less interested in what you are consistently knocking for, but rather more interested in the character that is built by consistency.*

**Closing:**

Pastor spoke last week of the importance that we build. However, nothing can and will be built throughout consistency, persistence, endurance, tenacity, stamina, and resolution. Question: Could it be that your blessing has only been delayed by your lack of endurance? Could the blessing you're still waiting for in December have been realized in May had you kept going and not quit? Faithfulness is a fruit that is only produced through time and attention. God is willing to bless us with the desires of our hearts, if our faithfulness can survive the journey.

**Reflection:**

As you reflect on this upcoming week and how you want to conclude 2017, recall some of the broken promises you made to yourself and God. Revive in your mind and make a list of these things. Pray that God give you the endurance to pick back up where you left off and finish this year strong.

---

---

---

---

---

---