

Review:

Lesson 1: Spiritual Warfare

Lesson 5: Shameless Prayer

Lesson 2: Encouraging the Prayerer

Lesson 3: Spirit-filled Prayer

Lesson 4: Wordless Prayer

Persistent Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Even a broken and flawed humanity has a sense of justice and tends to seek after it. But our understanding of justice is, obviously and naturally, embarrassingly _____ compared to God's sense of justice. We would do well to remember that.

Discussion 1. When we are convinced that our (human) understanding of justice is best and most accurate, what are some of the negative consequences? How does this arrogance hurt us (and hurt our communities) in the long run?

Prayer is a discipline that teaches us to never lose hope. The more we do it, the more hope we have. With prayer, _____ and _____ go hand in hand.

Discussion 2. In your prayers, does persistence bring you hope or is it hope that causes persistence? Or does it just depend on the circumstances? Can you share an example?

Our persistent prayers for justice do not change God's plans for justice; rather, they help us see His justice is _____, and prayer helps us begin to understand His perfect timing of it all.

Discussion 3. Can you think of a time when you prayed over and over for something without a response and were only able to see God's "justice" or His perfect timing in retrospect? Do you think it is possible that our real problem with waiting for God's justice has more to do with our inability to see than His unwillingness to answer?

Standing in this world as a person of prayer and persistent faith is, in most cases, to stand against the _____ of the world. For followers of Christ, this is the way.

Discussion 4. From your perspective, are people of persistent faith becoming more common in our world or less common in our world? Why do you suppose this is so?