

HOPE FOR A NEW YEAR Begin with Prayer

A new year is just around the corner! Excitement is starting to mount as educators all over the country begin preparing for a new group of students to teach, encourage, and love. Amid the excitement though is no doubt a little trepidation. Every educator knows this is not an easy gig. We all need some supernatural help. Priscilla Shirer says, “*Prayer is what opens up the floodgates for God to come down and be involved in our everyday circumstances.*” How do you prepare your heart and mind for a fruitful year? Pray!

[Read Luke 18:1-8.](#)

What was the purpose of this parable?

How did the judge respond (v.5)?

What does Jesus say about God’s response to those who cry out day and night?

We may not always see immediate results when we pray. Our idea of swift justice may not be the same as the Lord’s. Effective prayer requires persistence and faithfulness built on unwavering trust and faith in God. We can rely on the Lord to answer in His own time, place, and manner. God expects us to keep asking, seeking, knocking, and praying until we receive an answer ([Matthew 7:7-8](#)). Followers of Jesus are individuals of enduring faith.

[Read Luke 11:5-10](#)

What is the purpose of this parable?

Who is Jesus referring to in verse 10?

How can this impact your prayers?

[Read Luke 18:8 again.](#)

How does Jesus expect us to pray? How often?

What hopes for the new year has God placed on your heart? Will you be faithful to pray and pray consistently? This is the calling of every believer. Like the persistent widow, we are needy, dependent sinners who trust in our gracious, loving, and merciful God alone to supply what we need.

Dear Lord, thank You for the privilege to serve you. Lord, you know the challenges we face. Pour out your supernatural love into my heart as I prepare for a new school year. I trust you Lord to provide all I need. Show me more of yourself this year, Lord. Help me to love and serve others through the power of your Spirit. May my life bring glory and honor to you and most importantly, point others to Jesus.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

