



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: The Heart Of Prevailing Prayer

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS STEVERSON | 7/5/2026 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: God Is Not Withholding. He Is Working.

Devotional: Have you ever felt like God was holding out on you? Like maybe He was keeping something good just out of reach? That feeling is more common than most of us admit, and it is one of the oldest lies in existence. All the way back in the Garden of Eden, the enemy planted that same seed of doubt in Eve's heart. He suggested that God was withholding something that could make her better. But here is the truth: God was withholding death, sin, curse, and heartache. Everything He held back was for her protection, not her harm. Nothing has changed. When God seems quiet, when answers are slow, when prayers feel like they are bouncing off the ceiling, He is not ignoring you. He is working. He sees the full picture when you can only see the moment you are standing in. A loving Father does not hand His young child the keys to a car on the highway. That is not cruelty. That is love with wisdom behind it. God operates the same way. His timing is not a punishment. It is protection. You can trust Him today, even when you do not have all the answers. He has not forgotten you, and He is not done with you.

Bible Verse: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." - Hebrews 11:6

Reflection Question: In what area of your life have you been tempted to believe that God is withholding something good from you, and what would it look like to replace that doubt with trust?

Quote: "God is not withholding. God is working. God is not denying just because it may seem like it's a delay."

Prayer: Father, forgive me for the moments I have doubted Your goodness. Help me to trust that Your silence is not absence and Your delays are not denials. I choose to believe You are working even when I cannot see it.

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850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



info@gracevernon.org



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Day 2: Keep Asking. Keep Seeking. Keep Knocking.

Devotional: There is a woman in Luke 18 who had no power, no influence, and no guarantee that anyone would listen to her. She went before an unjust judge again and again, not because she was certain he would help, but because she refused to stop asking. Jesus tells this story with a clear purpose. If a cold, indifferent judge eventually responds to persistence, how much more will a loving, attentive Father respond to His children who cry out to Him? Prayer is not about wearing God down. He is not tired of you. He is not annoyed by your repeated requests. In fact, it is the opposite. When you stop asking, something is lost in the relationship. Silence in prayer is often a sign that trust has quietly slipped away. God wants you to bring everything to Him. The big things, the small things, the things you have asked about a hundred times before. He is not bothered by your persistence. He is moved by your faith. So keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep showing up. Not because you have to earn His attention, but because He already has it fixed on you.

Bible Verse: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!" - Matthew 7:11

Reflection Question: Is there a prayer you have quietly stopped praying because you assumed God was not listening? What would it take for you to bring it back to Him today?

Quote: "It's always no if you don't ask. But if you'll ask, continue to seek."

Prayer: Lord, I confess that I have sometimes stopped asking because I stopped trusting. Renew my faith and give me the courage to keep coming to You. Thank You for being a Father who listens.

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Day 3: Prayer Changes You

Devotional: We often come to God in prayer hoping the situation will change. And sometimes it does. But there is something even more consistent that happens when we pray faithfully. We change. There is a story of a man who prayed relentlessly for his dying brother. He believed for healing, he cried out to God, and He refused to give up. But God made something clear: physical healing was not the plan. What God promised instead was the healing of His brother's Spirit. And in the final moments of that man's life, that promise was kept. The circumstances did not change the way anyone hoped. But something far more eternal did. Prayer is not a transaction. It is a relationship. And in that relationship, God is always doing something, even when we cannot see it. Sometimes He changes the situation. But He always changes the person who keeps showing up. You may be praying for something right now that feels impossible or overdue. Do not measure the value of your prayer only by the outcome you can see. God is shaping your faith, your character, and your trust in ways that will outlast any single answer. Keep praying. The work He is doing in you is just as real as any miracle you are waiting for.

Bible Verse: "When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked Him, 'Do you want to get well?'" - John 5:6

Reflection Question: Can you think of a time when God did not answer a prayer the way you expected, but something in you grew or changed through the process?

Quote: "Sometimes the situation changes, but always the person changes."

Prayer: God, help me to trust You even when the answer looks different than I imagined. Remind me that You are always working, and that what You are doing in me is just as important as what You are doing around me.

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Day 4: Faith That Does Not Quit

Devotional: There is a kind of faith that is easy to have when life is going well. But Jesus was not asking about that kind of faith when He said, "When the Son of Man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?" He was asking about a faith that holds on when answers are slow. A faith that keeps praying when heaven feels silent. A faith that does not walk away just because the road got hard. Even Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, prayed with such intensity that His sweat became like drops of blood. He knew what was coming. The outcome was not a mystery to Him. But He still needed the strength to walk through it. That kind of prayer is not easy. It is the kind our flesh resists. But it is exactly the kind of faith God is looking for. Prevailing prayer is not about forcing God's hand. It is about refusing to let go of His. It is a declaration that says, "I do not understand, but I still trust You." You are not bothering God when you keep coming to Him. You are honoring Him. And He sees every prayer, every tear, and every moment you chose to stay.

Bible Verse: "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it." - Matthew 11:12

Reflection Question: What does it look like practically for you to have a faith that "prevails under pressure" in your current season of life?

Quote: "Even when the outcome was known, he needed the strength to go through the outcome. This kind of prayer is difficult. It's the kind of prayer our flesh resists. But this is the kind of faith that Jesus is looking for, a faith that prevails under pressure, whether we understand the outcome or not."

Prayer: Jesus, give me the kind of faith that does not quit. When I am tempted to walk away, draw me back to You. I want to be someone who keeps showing up, even when I do not understand.





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Day 5: Stay With God

Devotional: After everything, it comes down to one decision. Will you stay? God is calling His people back to prayer. Not the casual, convenient kind that fits neatly into a busy schedule. He is calling us to a persistent, wholehearted, trusting kind of prayer that refuses to walk away even when we do not have all the answers. His silence is not His absence. His delay is not His denial. He is not tired of you, and you cannot earn your way into His attention because you already have it. He is a Father who longs for His children to come to Him, not just when things are desperate, but every single day. The altar is not a place for instant answers. It is a place for a decision. A decision to trust God with what you do not understand. To believe Him for what you cannot yet see. To stay with Him even when the road ahead is unclear. That is prevailing prayer. Not a formula. Not a performance. Just a heart that keeps showing up and says, "God, I do not understand, but I trust You." Keep praying. Keep trusting. Keep showing up. He is worth it, and so is your faith.

Bible Verse: "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." - Isaiah 56:7

Reflection Question: What would it mean for you personally to make a decision today to "stay with God," especially in the areas where you have felt like giving up?

Quote: "God's silence, brothers and sisters, is not His absence. His delay is not his denial. I want you to keep praying. Keep trusting, keep showing up."

Prayer: Father, I choose to stay. I do not have all the answers, but I trust Your character. Help me to keep showing up in prayer, knowing that You are always present, always working, and always good.

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