RULE #5 Be Persistent

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1

What are the two imperatives in this passage?

Questions for thought:

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- 1. Why would God want his children to persist in prayer?
- 2. How does persistence in prayer affect our relationship with God?
- 3. Name a practical benefit of repeating a petition to God.

Bottom line: We are to persistently knock until God answers.

RULE #6 Be Specific

For they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him. Matthew 6:7-8 (NAS)

Underline two words that characterize pagan prayers.

Questions for thought:

- 1. What are some benefits to limiting our words when we pray?
- 2. How does being specific in our prayers increase our expectation that God will answer?
- 3. Why would it be beneficial to keep a prayer list?

Bottom line: Being specific adds power to our prayers.

RULE #7 Husbands and Wife rule.

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect....and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers." I Peter 3:7

Underline two key words for husbands to remember as they live with their wives.

Questions for thought:

- 1. How can a broken relationship with your spouse hinder your prayers?
- 2. Why must we be deliberate in showing kindness and respect in the home?
- 3. How do you think God feels about the prayers of a man who is rude, unkind, or cruel toward his wife?

Bottom line: A husband/wife relationship that does not meet the standards set forth in the Bible, can result in hindered prayer.

RULE #8 Don't use meaningless repetition.

"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition." Matthew 6:7 (NAS)

Underline two words in this passage that characterize powerless prayers.

Questions for thought:

- 1. Why is it so easy to fall into the trap of vain repetition in our prayers?
- 2. Can we pray repetitive prayers without engaging our hearts?
- 3. How can we safeguard against repetitive prayers?

Bottom line: When believers avoid meaningless repetitious prayers and appeal to God from our hearts we increase the power of our prayers.