

Series: Renegade

Message: Jacob-the Payoff of Persistence

June 3, 2012

A renegade does not settle for average or the common but goes against the norm in pursuit of God's best.

Jacob: the back-story

Going to the mat with God, persistence pays.

An instant answer is a rare answer.

Matthew 26:36-46; Daniel 10:12-14; Luke 11:5-13 & 18:1-8

Persistence is hard work.

Colossians 4:2 & 12; Exodus 17:8-13

Don't let anything stop you.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

When to say "uncle"- How to tell if it's a *No* or a *Not yet*.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Psalm 37:4

Keep praying until. . .

You get what you ask for.

You change your mind.

God clearly says, "No."

My intentional momentum:

Father I come before you openly and honestly. I present my requests to you. I will not be distracted and I will not give up until I receive a clear answer from you. My faith will not waiver as I persistently petition you in prayer.

NEXT STEPS Use these questions to start a conversation

QUICK REVIEW: This week we looked at renegade persistence that breaks out of the norm to Gods best. Was there one point that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or confused you more than the others?

MY STORY

1. How would you describe the role that prayer played in your family growing up?

- Nowhere to be seen
- Talked about, but not really done much
- Mostly at the dinner table
- Whenever a crisis surfaced
- An everyday experience
- Other

2. After hearing this week's teaching what would you say to someone who asks you to explain why persistence is an important part of prayer?

3. In what circumstances is it easiest for you to pray?

When is it the hardest?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What further insights do the following verses shed on both prayer and/or the role of persistence in prayer?

Matthew 6:7

Romans 8:26-27

James 5:13-16

2. One of the things that can hold back our prayers is the idea that our prayers need to be polished and articulate. Read 1 Kings 18:16-39. How does Elijah's prayer compare to the prayers of the prophets of Baal. What, if anything, does it show us about the kind of prayer God answers?

What are some benefits of keeping the prayers in your groups simple and conversational?

What could be some negative outcomes of not keeping our prayers simple?

3. In any relationship, the quality of communication is directly related to the quality and depth of the relationship. It's no different in a relationship with God. How would you describe your relationship with God? How can you improve this relationship?

Nehemiah was a man whose prayer life went far beyond just asking God for what he wanted. Read Nehemiah 1:1-10 and jot down anything you find that gives you insight into Nehemiah's relationship and communication with God – and how it might impact or help you to grow in your own prayer life.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Based on what we've learned about the importance of persistence in our prayers, is there anything you might be giving up on a bit too early? Anything you need to let go of?

2. Here are a few practical suggestions on how to develop your prayer life.

Schedule it

Get away on occasion

Pray aloud to help you focus

Pray specifically for what you want God to do

Listen, as well as talk

Use Scripture as your guide

Which, if any of these, do you already tend to do?

Are there other ideas or suggestions you've found to be helpful when it comes to prayer and persistence? Share them on the Real Life Facebook page.