20261025 單靠友誼是不夠的 – Ps Bruce McDonald

路加福音 11: 1 – 8

引言/ INTRODUCTION:

Is there anyone here today who likes receiving answers to prayer? Me too… I like it a lot, and I like lots of answers. After being a follower of Jesus for a long time now I have concluded that not all prayers are created equal. While it is good to pray, and right that we ask the Lord for things it is equally important that we learn to pray with increasing effectiveness.

今天在座有誰喜歡看見自己的禱告蒙應允嗎？我也是……我非常喜歡，而且希望有許多禱告都能蒙應允。跟隨耶穌這麼多年以來，我逐漸明白，並不是所有的禱告都一樣。禱告固然是好的，我們向主祈求各樣的事情也是理所當然的；然而，同樣重要的是，我們必須學習如何禱告，並且不斷提升禱告的果效。

So, in view of that let's consider the teaching that Jesus brings in our text this morning…

因此，基於這一點，讓我們一起來思想今天早上所讀的經文中，耶穌所教導我們的真理……

Immediately Jesus concludes teaching His disciples the pattern prayer, He chooses to tell them the story about the man asking his friend for bread AT MIDNIGHT! Now that is a test of friendship. But the priority thought in the story is that while he received what he needed it was not because of friendship, he received the answer to his request because of persistence!

耶穌剛教導完門徒禱告的典範後，隨即講了一個故事：有一個人在半夜去向朋友借餅！這可真是對友情的一大考驗啊！然而，這個故事的核心信息是：那人最終得到了自己所需要的，並不是因為彼此的友誼，而是因為他堅持不懈地懇求，最終得著了所求的！

I have been a Christian for 58 years and can say with certainty that the great answers to prayer that I have received have almost without exception been because of persistence. Often persistence over a prolonged period. Now, I don't resent that, I expect that.

我作基督徒已經五十八年了，可以肯定地說，我所領受那些奇妙的禱告應允，幾乎無一例外，都是因為持續不懈地禱告而得著的，而且往往需要經過一段漫長的時間。對此，我並不感到不滿，反而早已預期會是如此。

In Luke 18 we find another of the parables of Jesus focused on prayer… the parable has been called 'The Parable of the Importune Woman'… the widow who would not give up!

在《路加福音》第十八章中，我們會讀到耶穌另一個以禱告為主題的比喻。這個比喻被稱為「寡婦不屈不撓的比喻」，講述的是一位不肯放棄、堅持到底的寡婦！

In both these stories Jesus is giving us instruction, encouragement and permission to be persistent. That is helpful and EMPOWERING! But we should discuss the WHY for this:

在這兩個故事中，耶穌都在教導、鼓勵我們，並且肯定我們可以持續不懈地禱告。這樣的教導不但對我們很有幫助，更賦予我們力量，使我們能夠放膽禱告、堅持到底！然而，我們也應該進一步探討：為什麼要如此堅持不懈地禱告呢？

I want us to consider 4 important reasons:

我希望我們一起來思想四個重要的原因：

1. 我們以為一切都取決於神/ We think that it is all up to God:

God will do all that He has promised to do, BUT He won't do what He has told us to do!

神必定會成就祂所應許要做的一切，但是，祂不會替我們做那些祂已經吩咐我們去做的事!

a. We must consider what our responsibility is.

a. 我們必須思想自己的責任是什麼。

Dodie Osteen, the mother of Joel, had a ministry of praying for people right up until she went to be with Jesus. She was asked, Do you worry about people not getting healed when you pray? Her answer was simple, 'Sometimes we are so worried about God's job that we stop doing ours'!

喬爾（Joel Osteen）的母親多迪・歐斯汀（Dodie Osteen），直到她回到耶穌身邊之前，一直都在服事人，為人禱告。有人曾問她：「當你為人禱告時，會不會擔心他們得不著醫治？」她的回答很簡單：「有時候，我們太擔心神應該做的事，以致忘記了自己應該做的事！」

b. Jesus said, 'If you believe, all things are possible if you believe'. Prayer will rarely work if we say within ourselves, 'There God, I have prayed, not I will see what You will do'. No, pray in faith, stay in faith, and never give up.

b. 耶穌說：「你若能信，在信的人，凡事都能。」（馬可福音 9:23，和合本）如果我們心裡抱著這樣的想法來禱告：「神啊，我已經禱告了，現在就看看祢會怎麼做吧！」那麼，我們的禱告往往就難以發揮果效。不！我們要憑著信心禱告，持守信心，並且永不放棄!

2. There are forces at work who oppose the prayer, that resist the answer:

2. 有一些勢力正在運作，牠們敵擋我們的禱告，阻撓禱告蒙應允。

The language of war is a repeated theme in New Testament writings. This not metaphorical. We are in an identifiable war against an experienced enemy.

「爭戰」是新約聖經中反覆出現的一個主題。這並不只是比喻性的說法，而是指一場真實的爭戰。我們正身處一場可以明確辨認的爭戰之中，面對的是一個經驗豐富的仇敵。

Matthew 11: 12, is a permission slip from the Principal to take an aggressive stance when in prayer. For Christians, living in NZ this is neither natural nor comfortable. We live with a peacetime and not a wartime mentality. We need to reverse this. We are too nice. When was the last time you were aggressive in prayer?

《馬太福音》11 章 12 節，彷彿是校長親自簽發的一張許可證，准許我們在禱告中採取積極進取、勇敢爭戰的態度。對於生活在紐西蘭的基督徒來說，這樣的態度既不自然，也不容易適應。我們習慣以和平時期的心態生活，而不是以戰爭時期的心態面對現實。我們需要扭轉這種心態。我們實在太過溫和了！你上一次在禱告中積極進取、勇敢爭戰，是什麼時候呢？

'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against··· (Ephesians 6: 12). BUT we do wrestle, we must wrestle.

「因我們並不是與屬血氣的爭戰，乃是與……」（以弗所書 6:12，和合本）然而，我們確實是在爭戰，而且我們必須爭戰！

3. We forget that with all the vital pieces of armour we are told to put on only one is uniquely designed as a weapon of attack:

3. 我們忘記了，雖然聖經吩咐我們要穿戴各樣重要的屬靈軍裝，但其中只有一件是專門用作進攻武器的:

Ephesians 6: 17, '··· the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God'.

《以弗所書》6 章 17 節（和合本）:「並戴上救恩的頭盔，拿著聖靈的寶劍，就是神的道。」

I lead a healing ministry and get to pray for a lot of people who are facing health issues, often health crises. One of the questions I ask Christians I pray for is, 'What is the promise you have from God?' Too many have not even considered the answer to this. We don't need every promise, but we do need a promise, we don't need every verse, but we do need a verse··· and not just for healing! As you engage in prayer use the Word of God as a weapon, and ally in seeking your answer from God.

我帶領一個醫治事工，有機會為許多面對健康問題的人禱告，其中不少人正經歷嚴峻的健康危機。當我為基督徒禱告時，我常會問他們一個問題:「神應許了你什麼？」太多人甚至從未認真思考過這個問題。我們不需要擁有神的每一個應許，但我們確實需要一個應許；我們不需要記住每一節經文，但我們確實需要一節經文來支撐我們的信心。而且，這不僅適用於求醫治的事上！當你投入禱告時，要運用神的話語作為屬靈的兵器，並讓神的話語成為你尋求神應允時的幫助與力量。

Persistence:/ 持之以恆的禱告:

1. While I was Pastoring in Whakatane, we had a serious need for a larger building··· and what was our verse? Genesis 26: 22

1. 在我於懷卡塔尼（Whakatāne）牧會期間，我們迫切需要一座更大的聚會場地……那麼，當時我們所領受的經文是什麼呢？——《創世記》26 章 22 節。

2. The Liberty Trust story··· and what about the verse? Deuteronomy 28: 12

2. Liberty Trust 的故事……那麼，當時所依據的經文又是什麼呢？——《申命記》28 章 12 節。

3. A home for my family. Proverbs 19: 14

3. 為我的家人尋求一個家。——《箴言》19 章 14 節。

Ephesians 3: 20, 21 ‘Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21) to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever, Amen.’

《以弗所書》3 章 20–21 節（和合本）：「神能照著運行在我們心裡的大力，充充足足地成就一切，超過我們所求所想的。但願他在教會中，並在基督耶穌裡，得著榮耀，直到世世代代，永永遠遠。阿們！」

Friends, I can ask and I can think a lot… how about you? Was Paul, the human author here, the Lord, the Divine author here simply using hyperbole? No. I am simple enough to believe He was speaking literally.

弟兄姊妹，我可以求，也可以想，而且我所求所想的還不少……你們呢？保羅是這段經文在人間的作者，而主才是那位真正的、屬神的作者。祂是否只是在使用誇張的修辭手法呢？不！我很單純，願意憑著信心相信：祂所說的，就是字面上的真實意思。

So, what is the power that works in us?

那麼，運行在我們裡面的能力究竟是什麼呢？

1. The great Holy Spirit. / 偉大的聖靈。
2. The power to believe. / 相信的能力。
3. Persistence. The power to not give up! / 持之以恆的力量——永不放棄的力量!

Challenge: / 挑戰：

In prayer are you relying only on your friendship with God, your relationship with Jesus to gain answers to prayer. I would that I could tell you that is enough, but I believe the Bible tells another story. It speaks of a cosmic battle that rages against human beings. We are enlisted to join the battle. To pray prayers that unlock the resources of heaven on behalf of our generation.

在禱告中，你是否只倚靠自己與神之間的友誼，以及你與耶穌的關係，來祈求禱告蒙應允呢？我真希望能告訴你，單憑這些就足夠了；但我相信，聖經所呈現的，卻是另一番景象。聖經提到，一場席捲宇宙、持續不斷、與人類息息相關的屬靈爭戰。我們蒙召加入這場爭戰，成為其中的一分子。我們要藉著禱告，為我們這個世代祈求，使天上的豐盛資源得以被釋放，並臨到我們這個世代的人群當中。