

NOVEMBER 15 2025 FATHER PETER TURRONE

Have you ever had the experience where you've prayed, and prayed, and prayed, but it feels like nothing is happening? So, you're at a crossroads, and then you say, Well, either I'm going to continue to pray, or I'm going to stop praying. So, we can have that temptation, in different moments in our lives.

So Jesus... is Lord. And the Lord knows that we have—we will experience moments where we feel like giving up in prayer. That's why we have this beautiful parable that he teaches us, in today's Gospel.

So, what do we do when we're praying for something, and we've discerned, we believe, also with our friends, with our spiritual directors, and our priests—It's like, Okay, well what do I do here? I'm asking God for this grace, for this special thing, something I need in my life, or in somebody else's life. So, do I keep praying? Am I praying for the wrong thing? Well, the Lord is encouraging us to continue to do so. And there's different ways that we can discern how we're praying, and also biblical promises that the Lord has given us. And we see it right from the first book of the bible.

So, what are these promises? How does God want us to continue and to persevere in prayer? It's not enough just to tell someone, Just keep praying. But, how do we do that? What's the proper way, so that we can experience, right, the grace that God wants to give in our lives, and in the lives for those for whom we pray?

Well, in the Psalm, we said the following: You know, "Remember the marvels that the Lord has done." So, when we think of the word, "to remember," right, so what does it mean to remember? It isn't just recalling events from the past. In the biblical language, in our understanding as Christians, you know, we understand it to be so much more. So, to remember, is not just the recollection of past events, but it

involves entering into the mystery and the reality of God's presence. It's like at every Mass, we're not just recalling events, but those events are being made present to us. So, we're actually at the cross, through the Last Supper. So, we're there, with Mary and the saints, participating in this great act. Now, in a non-bloody way, as the Church teaches, but this sacramental presence is incredibly powerful.

So, we're told to remember. So this is—and the Mass, is the most powerful place of prayer, and the saints say, that when we're making our offering to God—right, so even though we can't physically come to the altar and put our prayers there, in our hearts, we offer them to God. So, during the process of the offering, that is a perfect place to put our pleas before God. So, we do that, and when we're doing that, we can also, afterwards, like during the course of the day, before or after Mass, spend time with the scripture in our hands, apart from what we've heard proclaimed in the Mass.

Why is that important? Well, all the saints would tell us, including Saint Albert, is that God is a God of promises and promises fulfilled. So, whatever he promised in the Old Testament has already been fulfilled in Christ. And there are things, there are promises, that Christ himself is going to fulfil at the Second Coming. So, we recall—this is now the recollection of events, throughout salvation history. Of all of the amazing things God has done. So, if I'm familiar with the scripture, I'm familiar with Christ. And I can see how every time God promises something through the prophets, it is always fulfilled afterwards.

So, if I put two and two together, and say, Okay, well God is a God of promises, and we as Christians are people of the fulfilment, and everything that God promised in the Old Testament has been fulfilled in Christ. So, if God has fulfilled all these promises, even to his own people, even when he said that they waivered, and they had gone far away from him... He had taken them out of Egypt, yet Egypt—it was harder to take Egypt out of their hearts, as I heard one Catholic

psychologist say. So, in spite of all those things, that God is always there, extending his mercy, and always offering hope.

So, the more I'm familiar with salvation history, the more confident—confident, not arrogant, but more confident I will be in recognizing that wait a minute, if God is going to do this, he's done this for other people. Why won't he do that for me? If I'm praying from the heart. If I'm praying for what I ultimately know is what is—what I hope to believe is going to be best for myself, for my relationship with God, and for other people. And for those that I'm praying.

So, remembrance is incredibly important. And then Jesus goes on in his parable. And he says, Look, he says, you need to persevere. How long have I been praying for something? I have a friend of mine that prayed 50 years for the conversion of her husband. 50 years! How many of us would give up after a week? So, you can see, if you stop praying for something quickly, then chances are that maybe that's not really what you desire on the deepest level. Or maybe on some subconscious level, on a spiritual level, we know that God's not going to answer that prayer the way we want. So we kind of give up on it. But 50 years! That's perseverance.

And we also—Jesus want us to know that he's also just. So he says, If this person who was unjust, is going to give this person what belongs to them, right, what belongs by rights to them, he'll do it, will not God, who is just himself, give us what we ultimately need? So this is a way of kind of banishing any doubts that we may have in our hearts and in our minds.

And then we have to have expectant faith. When I pray, I have to ask God in faith, and say, Lord, I know that you're good, I know you love me, I know you want what's best for me, you want me to have an abundant life, you've given all these things that people have asked for, I've seen in the lives of the saints, I myself can recall, in my own life in the past—(Clearing throat) when I've asked you, and you've given me

these graces, and always more than I expected, so I have full confidence that you are going to answer this prayer. And it's not arrogance, that's confidence. It's child-like confidence.

And then, the last thing, which is the hardest, is God's timing. And this goes back to the example earlier, about a friend of mine who prayed 50 years from the conversion of her husband. So, God answers on his own time. Again, there's reasons, there are mysterious reasons within his providential plan that only he can answer. But, we're all called to persevere, and to wait on the Lord. As it says in scripture: "Be silent and wait on the Lord." If we do these things in a spirit of deep gratitude, then our prayers will be answered, according to God's plan for us. And if they don't come exactly as we want, we'll have the humility and the wisdom to know, Look, God knows best, he loves me, he knows what's best for me, and therefore I place my trust in him.