

Persistence in Prayer (1 King 18: 36-46)

"Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." (1 King 18:37)

Today's passage tells how God answered his people's prayer. On one side Baal's 450 priests are there and on the other side prophet Elijah is alone, for his prayer the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood and also the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried "The Lord -he is God, The Lord - he is God". Here a single person's prayer make lot of people to come back to God. For the last three and half years there was no rain in the region, but Prophet Elijah's prayer made rain in the region too.

Jesus says we needs to pray at all times and never give up. Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their needs for constant prayer and to show them that they must never give up (Luke 18: 1-8).The story of a widow who pleaded with an unrighteous judge. He finally gave up into her request, worn down by her determination. How much more will God, the righteous Judge, listen to the persistent prayers of his loved ones? We should therefore be persistent in prayer, pray to him at all times and don't give up. In Philippians 4:6 says, don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Our joy, prayers and thankfulness to God should not fluctuate with our circumstances, needs or feelings. People often pray for things that they want instead of what God desires for us. Our all - knowing, loving God wants the best for us. God answers prayer in his timing, in his way, for his purpose only. So "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3 :5-6).