

Don't Stop Praying - Part 1

by Matthew West



What's your impossible?

Your "I need a miracle"

What's got you barely hanging by a single thread?

What looks so hopeless now?

What weighs down your heart with doubt?

You beg for a breakthrough, but no sign of breakthrough yet

When you've cried, and you've cried 'til your tears run dry

The answer won't come, and you don't know why

And you wonder if you can bow your head even one more time

Don't stop praying

Don't stop calling on Jesus' name

Keep on pounding on Heaven's door

And let your knees wear out the floor

(Luke 18:1–8) Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. {2} He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. {3} And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ {4} “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, {5} yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’ ” {6} And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. {7} And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? {8} I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

Don't stop believing

'Cause mountains move with just a little faith

(Mark 5:21–42) When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. {22} Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet {23} and pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” {24} So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. {25} And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. {26} She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. {27} When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, {28} because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” {29} Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. {30} At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” {31} “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” {32} But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. {33} Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. {34} He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” {35} While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher any more?” {36} Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, “Don’t be afraid; just

believe.” {37} He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. {38} When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. {39} He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” {40} But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. {41} He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum!*” (which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). {42} Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

And your Father's heard every single word you're saying So, don't stop praying

(2 Kings 20:1–6) In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, “This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.” {2} Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, {3} “Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly. {4} Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: {5} “Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. {6} I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.’ ”

He's close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit

(Psalm 34:18) The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are **crushed in spirit**.

(Isaiah 61:1–3) The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim **freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners**, {2} to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, {3} and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

The Alpha and Omega knows how your story ends

(Jeremiah 29:11–14a) For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. {12} Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. {13} You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. {14} I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity...