

Persistence in Prayer - by Lorelei Pepe

Can we be persistent in prayer? It is difficult to pray daily unless we make it part of our routine. Our days are filled with endless tasks and work but when a crisis comes, we go to God immediately. Why not during the normal times?

I read about a determined woman named Ann, who was admitted to a prominent design school in 1917 in New York City when she traveled from her home in Florida and met with the director. She was told she was not welcome because she was Black. This was during the time of great segregation which was still prevailing.

She was upset but was determined. She prayed and prayed daily and approached the director again. She was persistent and her determination finally convinced the director to admit her. She was still segregated from the rest of the class but she did not mind.

Being very talented, Ann rose to the top of the class and became a prominent designer in her field. Ann ended up designing the former first lady's wedding gown. It was for Jacqueline Kennedy.

A similar situation happened to me, but was not as traumatic as Ann's. When I was 17 I applied to a fashion school as I wanted to be a designer as well. My portfolio was good, but not my grades. I also was determined to go to the school of my dreams so I kept at it. I prayed and prayed and asked God for guidance. I was young and scared but pushed ahead. I contacted the directors again and finally they agreed to let me matriculate 2 courses over the summer. If my grades were good, I would be accepted. I worked diligently and thank God, I was accepted.

Jesus talks about persistence in prayer in the Bible. It does pay off. He tells us to pray for strength, endurance, perseverance and never give up Hope! All in time his goodness will prevail. It will come to pass in his timing, not ours!

In Luke 18, Jesus tells his disciples to always pray and not lose heart! He often told parables to make his point.

So do not despair when darkness descends upon you, as it does for us all, but give it to the Lord in prayer. Our God will bring us through that tunnel and we will see the light. Believe, hope, trust and pray. Never Give Up!