

# THE CIRCLE MAKER

By Mark Batterson

Lesson 3: Chapters 8-9

## Persistence: Genesis 32:22-32

- Sometimes we **let go** of God and His promises just before He blesses us.
- God allows us to face our old **character** in order that we might properly handle His blessings.
- Prayer is:
  - A habit to be **cultivated**
  - A discipline to be **developed**
  - A skill to be **practiced**

## UN-Offended Matthew 11:1-6

- Respond in faith when all around us **blessings** are abundant but, it seems like God has gone **silent** with you.
- “100 percent of **prayers** I don’t pray won’t get **answered**”

## IF John 11:17-27

- Martha’s statements can be categorized as two degrees of faith
  - First-degree faith is **preventative** faith “*Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died*”(v.21)
  - Second-degree faith is **resurrection** faith “*BUT even now*” (v.22)
- Even when it seems like God is four days **late**, it’s **ALWAYS** too soon to give up.
- Never make **permanent** what God intends to be **temporary**!

## Proximity

- **Spiritual** and **physical** location can be important to our prayer life.
- Pray in a place where God has previously performed a **miracle/s**.
- God loves seeing us **unwrap** His blessings. He can hardly wait to **answer** our prayers, **start now!**

**Key Thought: “Prayer activates the promises of God”**

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it easy (or not) to give up on the promises of God?
2. **Read Genesis 32:22-32.** What intrigues you the most about Jacobs encounter with God?
3. What blocks your pathway to the blessings of God and temps you to doubt His power? What practical steps will you take today to remove those spiritual road blocks?
4. Do you know the promises of God? If so please share it with the group and, if not, work within the group to identify one. Pray around that promise during the remainder for this month.