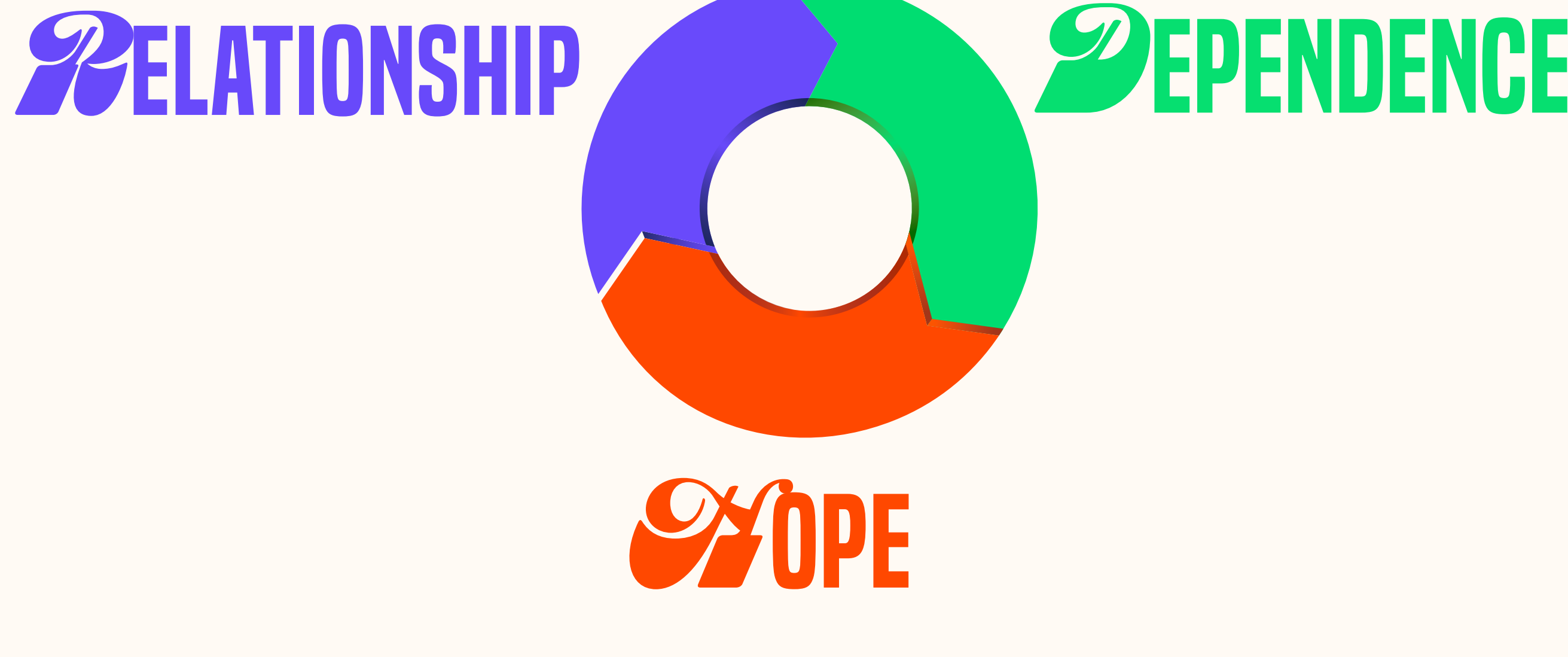


KEEP PRAYING IS KEEP BELIEVING

“When the answer is delayed, what sustains our prayers is not what God does, but knowing who God is.”

THE VIRTUOUS CYCLE OF PRAYER



I PERSIST IN PRAYER BECAUSE:

1. I CAN DRAW NEAR TO HIM AS MY FATHER

MATTHEW 6:9-13

»⁹ Pray then like this:

Relationship → Our Father in heaven,

Worship → Hallowed be your name.

Surrender → ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Trust → ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,

Forgiveness → ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Guidance → ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Dependence → For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

² And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”

LUKE 11:2-4 ESV

“Jesus teaches us that prayer does not begin with what we ask for, but with knowing whom we are approaching.”

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

MATTHEW 6:8 ESV

I PERSIST IN PRAYER BECAUSE:

2. I HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO BE BOLDLY PERSISTENT.

⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence[a] he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

LUKE 11:5-10 ESV

⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

LUKE 11:9 ESV

“The very fact that God places a burden of prayer on our hearts and moves us to persevere in it is, in itself, evidence that He intends to grant our request.”

**KENT HUGHES
DISCIPLINES OF A GODLY MAN**

I PERSIST IN PRAYER BECAUSE:

3. I MUST FILL THE MEASURE REQUIRED

¹ And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”

LUKE 18:1-5 ESV

⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

LUKE 18:6-8 ESV

“Perseverance is trusting who God is, even when you do not know what He will do.”

“Perseverance is returning to the Father again and again, even when our strength is gone and the answer has not yet come.”