

Thought for the Day – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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## SAHWYP

I have been thinking a lot about prayer, at the start of this new year. I remember an acronym, PUSH, which stood for Pray Until Something Happens. There is a lot of truth in that, but also in the reverse, Something Always Happens When You Pray - SAHWYP!

That feels encouraging!

They may seem contradictory, but Jesus taught both. In Luke 18:1-8, He told the parable of the unjust judge and the persistent widow, to encourage us to always pray and never give up, so a bit like Push.

But He also taught us, to pray and believe that we have received it – Mark 11:24

Perhaps the reality of prayer for many of us is somewhere in the middle? The more we pray the more we are changed, and our prayers change, aligning more with God's kingdom values.

I have been encouraged and challenged to pray for people and situations, that have not seen much change in a long time. What helps is a wider perspective.

I keep a diary, with all my prayer requests for each day, and the following day, I review it and put a tick where the prayer was answered with a yes, a cross if it was answered with a no, and a question mark if its neither yes or no!

When I look back, over the years, as I did during the post-Christmas week, it is extraordinary to see how many ticks there are. There are a few crosses, and some of them were deeply significant, and impactful to me, and a few question marks, but they sat within a bigger perspective of yes's which is both encouraging and comforting. It is helpful to see that bigger perspective.

I think that is what Jesus meant when he encouraged us to keep praying, He had that perspective. He knows something we don't! May God encourage you and inspire you in your praying this year!