

(1) What has been your experience with New Year's Resolutions in the past? Have you regularly made them? What were some of them? How consistent have you been in keeping them? Why does it seem so easy to break them?

(2) Consider this New Year's Resolution for 2017 – "Resolved: to devote myself to unceasing prayer in 2017, if only for one thing." What do you think of this? Does it sound too difficult? What would help you keep it faithfully? Would you be willing to commit yourself to a small accountability group who can challenge you in the days ahead and hold you responsible for staying devoted to prayer?

(3) Prayer isn't easy, and one of the reasons for this is that often God forces us to wait on an answer. What are some of the reasons why God makes us wait? Have you experienced this in the past? How has it helped you for God to delay his response?

(4) Read once again Matthew 7:9-11. What is the force of the words, "how much more"? This is the unbreakable logic of heaven. How might it affect your attitude about prayer and the way you practice it?

(5) Now, take a few minutes and let each person identify and speak aloud their "one" request for 2017, that "one thing" that they are resolving today to make a focus of persistent intercession.