

## Persistent Prayer - Luke 18:1-8

It is a fact that God wants to answer our prayers (Jeremiah 33:3). Our prayer life, as we became children of God, began with an answer to our prayer for salvation. If our lives are grounded in Him (John 15:4-7), God tells us to come to His Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16).

1: And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint,

His will for us is to pray in faith, expecting an answer.

Prayer is a topic found throughout the Bible (I Thessalonians 5:17&18, II Thessalonians 1:3, 11&12).

2: Saying, "There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man.

3: And there was a widow in that city and she came unto him saying, 'Avenge me of mine adversary'.

A widow - This would arrest the attention of the listeners because the judges were to show special attention to the widows (Isaiah 1:17, Jeremiah 22:3). They were commonly poor, virtually defenseless, and were more easily oppressed by those who had the resources and power to take advantage of them (Matthew 23:14, Mark 12:40, Luke 20:47).

Avenge...adversary - The Greek word is *ekdikeson*. The implication is to "settle the case to free me from the presence of my adversary".

4: And he would not for a while, but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I fear not God, nor regard man,

Christ describes the judge as being wicked. The wicked judge responds to persistence. God responds with love, grace, and mercy.

5: Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her lest by her continual coming she weary me'.

Weary me - The Greek word translates to hit under the eye. He was not compassionate or just.

6: And the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge saith.

Hear - Understand the point being made. God always does right and is filled with compassion for all His children (Acts 9:4).

7: And shall not God avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them?

8: I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth"?

Conclusion: Christians need to understand that God's delays aren't His denials (Daniel 10:12&13). God often grants us something better than we have asked (Ephesians 3:20).

Notes: