

Luke
See Jesus
“Again & Again & Again & Again”
Luke 18:1-8

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 23, 2023

Luke 18:1-8 “¹And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, “Give me justice against my adversary.” ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, “Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”’ ⁶And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?’”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. Never forget the God-designed connection between prayer and courage!

Luke 18:1 “And He told them a parable to the effect that **they ought always to pray and not lose heart.**”

A. Prayer should have a normative presence in your life.

Luke 21:36 “**But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength** to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Romans 12:12 “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, **be constant in prayer.**”

Ephesians 6:18-20 “...**praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Colossians 4:2 “**Continue steadfastly in prayer**, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “...pray without ceasing...”

B. Consistent prayer will lead to consistent courage.

“When God says ‘Do not be afraid,’ He is calling us to walk
in faith and truth even if & while we are afraid.”

~ Sarah LaRuffa

Psalms 34:4 “I sought the Lord, and He answered me and **delivered me from all my fears.**”

Philippians 4:6-7 “...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**”

II. Don't make the mistake of thinking "unanswered prayer" means God is unfair.

A. You should keep praying because God won't ignore or refuse you.

Luke 18:2-4a "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..."

B. You should keep praying because God won't be "worn down" into changing His will for your life.

Luke 18:4-5 "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.'"

C. You should keep praying because God has never let you down, and will always do what's best for His glory and your ultimate good.

Luke 18:6-8a "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..."

Genesis 18:25 "...Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

Deuteronomy 32:4 "The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He."

III. You need to decide if God will find you among the faithful when He returns!

Luke 18:8b "...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?"

Acts 17:30-31 "The times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now He commands all people everywhere to repent,**³¹ because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 "Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.² For He says, 'In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.' **Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**"

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Luke 18:1 says Jesus "told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." How have you seen a connection between consistent prayer and increased courage?
2. Pastor Peter defined courage as "the ability to walk in faith and truth even if and while we are afraid." Recall a time when you experienced courage, or observed it in someone else.
3. Pastor Peter said "Don't make the mistake of thinking 'unanswered prayer' means God is unfair." When have you been tempted to interpret unanswered prayer as an unfair response from God?
4. Pastor Peter said "God has never let you down." Is that hard to believe? Why or why not?
5. What changes do you need to make in order for Jesus to find you among the faithful when He returns?