

Luke 18:1-8 – Persistence In Faith.

- I. The purpose of the parable: that we **persist** in **prayer**.

There are many obstacles in the way of effective and constant prayer;

- Discouragement, Doubt, Laziness, Busy-ness

The judge must've been a political appointee of Rome so he didn't care about being efficient; he disregarded both God and men. In fact, he knew he was unjust.

However, the woman wouldn't stop bothering him; she persisted and insisted until she got help. The judge was unjust, he had no personal interest in the widows case and he help just to get the widow off his door.

“Jesus did not give this parable to say that God was *like* the unjust judge, but *unlike* him.”

- **God is a righteous and just Judge, an Advocate, a Friend, a Father...**
Psalm 7:11 - God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.
- **God loves and cares for those who petition Him: He invites us.**
1 Peter 5:6 - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
Revelation 8:3-4 - Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him:

Luke 11:5-10 – And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; “and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? “I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Persistence is “the fact of continuing in an opinion or course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.”

- Hannah year after year earnestly prayed for a child, a son (1 Samuel 1).
- Jacob refused to let go until he was blessed (Genesis 32).
- Rachel said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die!” (Genesis 30).

An elderly lady was once asked by a young man who had grown weary in the fight, whether he ought to give up the struggle. "I am beaten every time," he said dolefully. "I feel I must give up."

"Did you ever notice," she replied, smiling into the troubled face before her, "that when the Lord told the discouraged fishermen to cast their nets again, it was right in the same old spot where they had been fishing all night and had caught nothing?"

Romans 5:1-5 – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have[fn] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Peter 1:5-7 – But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

“That which we persist in doing becomes easier, not that the task itself has become easier, but that our ability to perform it has improved.”

Waldo Emerson.

I look at a stone cutter hammering away at a rock a hundred times without so much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the 101st blow it splits in two. I know it was not the one blow that did it, but all that had gone before.

Ephesians 6:18 – praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—