

The Privilege of Prayer

➤ Lesson:

Luke 18:1-8

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

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.

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

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

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

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?

How many of you have a mother that loves to be nagged? What? None of your mothers like naggers? How about your dads? They don't either?

One of the great things about this passage of scripture is that we learn that Jesus loves naggers! It is true!!!! He wants you to nag Him until He does what you want or until He tells you that it is not His will. It is natural for a child to nag their mother, because moms have a habit of giving in if the child keeps it up. It is so funny to hear a mother ask why her son won't mind her; when you have seen her give in to his nagging time after time. She has him trained?

You may wonder how we can always pray. God did not mean for us to always be on our knees in fervent prayer. We would never fulfill the Great Commission if so, but, He does expect us to pray every morning and get connected to the Spirit of God. If we do it every day, we won't have trouble doing so in a short time. By getting "connected" you are able to "walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh." We keep in contact with Him all day, every day.

God is not only our Father, but he is also our husband. He delights in giving us what we desire, but he requires an effort from us.

When He turned the water to wine, they had to fill the pots with water before He did his part.

When He raised Lazarus from the dead, they had to roll back the stone.

Mark 11:22-24

22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

We have many mountains in our lives. Prayer, accompanied by faith, can take care of all of the troubles we come up against.

Luke 7:6-10

6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

9 When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

One of the marvelous things about this story is that the centurion understood that the problem that he had was under complete submission to Jesus' authority. All Jesus had to do was command and things had to happen. We are so concerned with what we see, or what we feel, or what we think we know to be true, that it is hard for us to just believe. We need to practice believing God!!!! If the Word says it, then it is so!

2 Kings 20:1-7

1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying,

3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

4 And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

5 Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

6 And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

7 And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

Here is a great example of how that prayer even changed God's plans. He is tender to His people. His ears are open to our cries. But, He requires us to call out to Him with our needs. By praying, we show our faith that He will answer.

Psalms 5:2-3

2 Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

The Psalmist David gave us an example of morning prayers. Starting our day with prayer, before the troubles come, can help us deal with them, or deliver us from them altogether.

2 Chronicles 7:14-15

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

We are the people called by His name. He is looking to hear and answer our every prayer. He just requires a few things from us; Humble ourselves (acknowledge that God is our only hope- - not, we, ourselves), pray (tell God our problems and ask His help), seek Him with all of our energy, and change our ways that are not pleasing to Him. What a beautiful promise from the Word of God.

James 5:13-18

13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Fervent prayer to the God of heaven changes things. Fervent prayer is prayer using all of your energy! Elias was just like you and me. He just believed God would answer Him.

1 John 5:14-15

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

How exciting it is to KNOW that God hears us!

Rev 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Your prayers never disappear. They are important to God. How many golden vials full of your prayers are there? Flood heaven with your prayers. In our modern computer world, we know that a very small device can hold gigabytes of information. Know that man's inventions cannot outdo God. His golden vials can hold all of the prayers you can pray, but let's test the limits!