

“PRAYING THAT PREVAILS”

“And will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry, when he shall hear it, He will answer thee.” (Isaiah 30:19)

Fact: All personal, local and larger revivals can be distinctly traced to prayer.

Fact: The surest sign of floods of blessing to come is a united spirit of prayer.

Fact: An increase of personal and corporate prayer among believers indicates that something supernatural is about to happen.

Listen to our forefathers:

“Every minister should know that if prayer meetings are neglected, all his work is in vain. Unless Christians attend the prayer meetings, nothing else will improve the state of faith.” (Charles G. Finney on page 64 in “How to Experience Revival.”)

“Time spent in prayer is not wasted, but time invested at big interest.” (R.A. Torrey on page 15 in “How to Pray.”)

“Intense continued prayer prepared the disciples hearts, opened the windows of heaven, and brought down the promised gift. The power of the Spirit could not be given without Christ sitting on the throne, nor could it descend without the disciples on the footstool of the throne.” (Andrew Murray on page 26 in “The Ministry Of Intercessory Prayer.”)

Remember Jesus

“Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended.” (Luke 3:21:22)

(In other words)

- It was in prayer that heaven was **opened** to Jesus. (Luke 3:21)
- It was in prayer that the **Spirit** was outpoured. (Acts 2:1-4)
- It was in prayer where Jesus was **prepared** for the wilderness (Luke 4:1)
- It was in prayer where Jesus would teach us the **lifeline** of our soul. (Luke 18:1)

(Introduction to Luke 18:9)

Fact: Jesus thinks it is of utmost importance to prevail in prayer. (Two parables address this.)

Fact: Jesus is emphatic in His parables that we know two things:

1. That we must expect some **obstacles** in prayer!
2. That these difficulties can be **overcome** by prevailing prayer!

I. The Principle (v. 1)

*“Men (and women) ought always to pray and not to faint.” (It’s an **either/or** here.)*

#1. We must maintain a spirit of prayer (**or**) #2. If we fail here, we will faint (withdraw from battle)

Question: What does it mean “ought always to pray”?

Answer: It means to not only pray at regular seasons, times or devotional periods, but to maintain a “spirit of prayer” continually.

- Lifting up your **heart** to God throughout the day.
- Reflecting upon God’s **goodness** throughout the day.
- Conscious of God’s **presence** throughout the day.
- Union and communion and **fellowship** throughout the day.
- A focused **mind** at work, home, inside, outside, wherever.

II. **The Problem (Vs. 2, 3, 4)**

- There was a judge who was appointed by law to determine causes brought before him.
- This judge had no reverence for God and consequently no regard for people.
- A widow was being oppressed and being taken advantage of.
- This widow **approached** and **asked** for justice due her by the law.

She had a need.

- She knew where to go.
- She approached her answerer.

And Jesus teaches us here:

1. There are powers in the **unseen world** to overcome. (Ephesians 6:12)
2. There must be a prevailing to **pull down** resistance. (Daniel 10:1-13)
3. There is a persevering that **prays through** spiritual strongholds. (II Corinthians 10:4,5)
4. There is a **wiling choice** that we must make to hold on in prayer. (Matthew 7:7)

III. **The Prize (v. 5)**

“I will avenge her.” (And grant her request.)

- For a time, the judge was deaf to the woman’s petition.
- God (it seems to us at times) is acting like the judge.
- Thus, when we receive no speedy answer, we are tempted:

1. To feel that God is not **responding** to our praying.
2. To think that God is **reluctant** to answer prayer.
3. To believe that God is **not** going to answer. (But nothing could be further from the truth.)

Fact: It’s what you do during the “while” (v. 4) that reveals your true spiritual maturity in prayer.

Fact: It’s what you do during the “unseen activity” that reveals if you truly believe in prevailing prayer.

“I will avenge her lest by her continued coming.” (V. 5) Means:

1. That it is scriptural to pray more than **once** for something.
2. That it is beneficial to keep **knocking** in prayer.
3. That it is “faith” to **pray again** for something already prayed for before.

IV. **The Promise (Vs. 7,8)**

“Shall not God avenge His own elect...I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.”
(Vs. 7, 8)

**The Whole Teaching Of This Parable
(Is to contrast the judge with God)**

1. The judge had no care for the woman, but the Lord cares for each of His own.
2. The judge was reluctant to answer, but the Lord wants to answer.
3. The judge was bothered by the woman, but the Lord needs us to knock, petition, and ask so that he can release the answers.

“Which cry day and night...nevertheless, when Jesus returns, shall He find faith on earth”?

Means:

- Will He find his people (us) praying in faith like the woman?
- Will He find His people (us) praying until the answer comes?
- Will He find His people (us) aligning ourselves in prayer so that we are in position to receive the answer?

AMEN!
Bill Kirk