

"PRAYER - A DIVINELY GIVEN OBLIGATION"
LUKE 18:1-8

NOTE: In the Context of this passage Jesus was emphasizing the necessity of prayer being a **CONSTANT ACTIVITY** in the life of the believer. In the 17th chapter, Jesus was speaking about the days before HIS SECOND COMING and He indicated that it would be a time like **in the days of Lot and Noah when things were not conducive to RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GODLINESS**. Practically speaking, that is where we are **right now**. And so Jesus was teaching that to face **DIFFICULT DAYS**, the **ONLY ALTERNATIVE FOR VICTORY IS PRAYER!**

CHRIST'S MESSAGE WAS VERY CLEAR: ***IF YOU DON'T PRAY, YOU WILL FAINT!***

QUESTION: HOW DOES PRAYER PREVENT FAINTING?

- 1) Prayer gives us Confidence of God's Presence
- 2) Prayer gives us Confidence of God's Answers
- 3) Prayer gives us Confidence of God's Strength
- 4) Prayer gives us Confidence of God's Direction
- 5) Prayer gives us Confidence of God's Blessing

THE PARABLE OF THE UNJUST JUDGE

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus gives us **THE PARABLE OF THE UNJUST JUDGE**. The message of the parable is very clear: **IF THE UNJUST JUDGE WHO HAS NO RESPECT FOR GOD OR PEOPLE ANSWERS REQUESTS, WE CAN KNOW FOR SURE THAT GOD WILL SURELY ANSWER OUR REQUESTS.**

THE DEFINITION OF PRAYER

DEFINITION ONE: Prayer is the communion of the believer's heart with God that is conducted through praise, petition, intercession, supplication and waiting upon the Lord that has the goal to glorify God in all things.

DEFINITION TWO: Prayer is a time of intimate dialogue with the Lord.

I. PRAYER IS A MORAL OBLIGATION

"OUGHT" - Lit. - "That which is a "NECESSARY MUST"

- A. The Commands to Pray
 - 1 Chronicles 16:11; Matthew 7:7; 26:41; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- B. The Concerns of Prayer
 1. Many Have a Poor Prayer Life
 2. Many Pray with Wrong Motives
 3. Many Pray Improperly

II. PRAYER IS A MAJOR OPERATION

"ALWAYS" - Lit. "Even When" - "At All Times"

- A. The Concept of Prayer
 - Prayer is to be **our lifestyle...NOT just what we do from time to time!**
- B. The Cause of Prayer
 1. To Commune with God
 2. To Get God's Direction
 3. To Know God's Will
 4. To Get to Know God

III. PRAYER IS A MEASURABLE OPTION

"PRAY AND NOT FAINT"

A. The Matter of Courage

-Prayer that is TRUE PRAYER gives us the COURAGE to face any FOE

-Note Jehosaphat - 2 Chronicles 20:1-23 (12-15)

B. The Matter of Collapses

-"Faint" - Lit. "To become weary and fail."

LESSON/APPLICATION

- 1) Though prayer is an OBLIGATION, those who love the Lord LOVE TO PRAY!
- 2) Those who LOVE TO PRAY *WILL BE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIANS* and will live in the center of the Will of God.
- 3) Those who LOVE TO PRAY *WILL BE STRONG IN DIFFICULT TIMES.*

HOW IS YOUR PRAYER LIFE TODAY?