

Pray and Have the Right Mindset

[Luk 18:1-14 NKJV] 1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' 4 "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' " 6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" 9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise [his] eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

1. Prayer is Central to Christian Living

a. Pray to Strengthen Yourself

[Luke 18:1-14 NKJV] 1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart

Ought- needed, required

Lose heart – exhausted, wearied out

[Col 4:12 NKJV] 12 Epaphras, who is [one] of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

b. Pray as Part of Your Lifestyle

[Mat 6:7 NKJV] 7 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen [do]. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

c. Pray Sincerely

2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' 4 "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

d. Pray Knowing God Answers Prayer

6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

- i. The timing might be different than we desire
[Jer 42:7 NKJV] 7 And it happened after ten days that the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.
- ii. The answer might be yes or no
[Luke 22:42 NKJV] 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

2. A Bad Prayer

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

a. Is Conceited

b. Is Concerned With the Wrong Things

[Jas 4:3 NKJV] 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend [it] on your pleasures.

3. A Good Prayer

13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise [his] eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified [rather] than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

a. Is Dependent on God

i. It's Not Full of Frivolous Words

ii. It's Communicating Your Reliance on God

b. Declares the Truth About God

c. Is Desiring God's Will

[Luke 22:42 NKJV] 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

[Mat 6:9-13 NKJV] 9 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as [it is] in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

[Jer 42:1-22 NKJV] 1 Now all the captains of the forces, Johanan the son of Kareah, Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiiah, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, came near 2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please, let our petition be acceptable to you, and pray for us to the LORD your God, for all this remnant (since we are left [but] a few of many, as you can see), 3 "that the LORD your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do." 4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard. Indeed, I will pray to the LORD your God according to your words, and it shall be, [that] whatever the LORD answers you, I will declare [it] to you. I will keep nothing back from you." 5 So they said to Jeremiah, "Let the LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not do according to everything which the LORD your God sends us by you. 6 "Whether [it is] pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the

voice of the LORD our God." 7 And it happened after ten days that the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah. 8 Then he called Johanan the son of Kareah, all the captains of the forces which [were] with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest, 9 and said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your petition before Him: 10 'If you will still remain in this land, then I will build you and not pull [you] down, and I will plant you and not pluck [you] up. For I relent concerning the disaster that I have brought upon you. 11 'Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not be afraid of him,' says the LORD, 'for I [am] with you, to save you and deliver you from his hand. 12 'And I will show you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and cause you to return to your own land.' 13 "But if you say, 'We will not dwell in this land,' disobeying the voice of the LORD your God, 14 "saying, 'No, but we will go to the land of Egypt where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor be hungry for bread, and there we will dwell'-- 15 "Then hear now the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah! Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'If you wholly set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there, 16 'then it shall be [that] the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there [in] Egypt; and there you shall die. 17 'So shall it be with all the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to dwell there. They shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. And none of them shall remain or escape from the disaster that I will bring upon them.' 18 "For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'As My anger and My fury have been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so will My fury be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. And you shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse, and a reproach; and you shall see this place no more.' 19 "The LORD has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to Egypt!' Know certainly that I have admonished you this day. 20 "For you were hypocrites in your hearts when you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray for us to the LORD our God, and according to all that the LORD your God says, so declare to us and we will do [it].' 21 "And I have this day declared [it] to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, or anything which He has sent you by me. 22 "Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell."