

# Biblical Prayer



***The Posture  
of  
Prayer***

***Luke 18:1-14***

## Luke 18:1-14

**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.**

## **Luke 18:1-14 - continued**

**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?**

## **Luke 18:1-14 - continued**

**9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:**

**10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.**

**11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.**

**12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.**

## **Luke 18:1-14 - continued**

**13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon 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 every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

# Introduction

- A. Prayer is more than some people think (v 1)**
- B. Prayer is asking for help beyond your capability (v 3)**
- C. Prayer is getting God's attention (vv 5-8)**
- D. Prayer is not about hearing what you have done for God but what God can do to help you (vv 9-14)**

# **I. Humble Yourself Before God in Prayer**

**A. Prayer requires humility and recognition of our dependence on God**

**James 4:6**

**But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**



# **I. Humble Yourself Before God in Prayer**

**B. Humble prayer acknowledges God's greatness and our need for His help**

**Psalm 95:6-7**

**6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**A – Adoration**

**C – Confession**

**T – Thanksgiving**

**S - Supplication**

# **I. Humble Yourself Before God in Prayer**

**C. Humility in prayer leads to God's favor**

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

**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.**

**Lamentations 3:40-41**

**40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.**

**41 Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens.**

## **II. Persistent Prayer Brings Results**

**A. We are called to pray incessantly**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17**

**Pray without ceasing.**

**1 Timothy 2:8**

**I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.**

## **II. Persistent Prayer Brings Results**

**B. Persistence in prayer demonstrates faith and trust in God's timing**

**Luke 18:1**

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

**Jonah 2:7**

**When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.**

## **II. Persistent Prayer Brings Results**

### **C. God rewards persistent and fervent prayer**

#### **1. That is effectual by the faithful**

**James 5:16**

**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.**

#### **2. That is enjoined with faith**

**Hebrews 11:6**

**But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

### **III. Pray With Faith And Expectation**

#### **A. Expect God to answer your prayers**

**Mark 11:24**

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

### **III. Pray With Faith And Expectation**

#### **B. Faith-filled prayer moves mountains**

**Matthew 17:20**

**And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

### **III. Pray With Faith And Expectation**

**C. Pray believing that God is able to do the impossible**

**Luke 1:37**

**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**



**Prayer Is More Than Bowing Your Head  
And Saying Some Words**