

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!





## Praise and Prayer Request

**Philippians 1:3-6** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered over the book's gutter.

**Call to Worship**  
**Psalm 146:3-9**

**Psalm 146:3-9** Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose **hope is in the LORD his God**, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the **LORD loves the righteous**. The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but **the way of the wicked he brings to ruin**.

# The Solid Rock

## Hymn 92



# Trust and Obey

## Hymn 454



# Receiving of the Offering



**2 Cor. 9:5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

# ***Famous Quote:***

*“All heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, all hell terribly afraid of it, while men are the only beings who more or less ignore its meaning.”*

**OSWALD CHAMBERS**



**Today's Message**

**“Do Not Lose Heart”**

**Scripture text: Luke 18:1-8**

**Luke 18:1-8** And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and **not lose heart**. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And **will not God give justice to his elect**, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? **I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**

Luke **mentions widows** more than do all the other Gospel writers combined (Luke 2:37–38; 4:25–26; 7:11–17; 18:1–8; 20:45–47; 21:1–4). In that day, **widows usually had a difficult time making ends meet**, in spite of the care God instructed His people to give them (Ex. 22:22–24; Deut. 14:28–29; 16:9–15; Ps. 146:9; Isa. 1:17, 23; Jer. 7:6).

The early church was serious about the care of Christian widows (Acts 6:1; 1 Tim. 5:3–10; James 1:27), **a good example for us to follow today.**

As we look at this parable, try to see it in its **Eastern setting**. The “courtroom” was not a fine building but a **tent** that was moved from place to place as the judge covered his circuit. **The judge, not the law, set the agenda**; and he sat regally in the tent, surrounded by his assistants. Anybody could watch the proceedings from the outside, but **only those who were approved and accepted could have their cases tried**. This usually meant bribing one of the assistants so that he would call the judge’s attention to the case.

**The widow had three obstacles to overcome.** First, **being a woman** she, therefore, had little standing before the law. In the Palestinian society of our Lord's day, **women did not go to court.** Since **she was a widow**, she had no husband to stand with her in court. Finally, **she was poor** and could not pay a bribe even if she wanted to.

No wonder poor widows did not always get the protection the law was supposed to afford them!

Now that we understand something of the setting of this parable, **we can better understand what Jesus was teaching.** Basically, He was encouraging His disciples to pray, and He did this by presenting three contrasts.

**Praying contrasted with fainting (v. 1). If we don't pray, we will faint; it's as simple as that!** The word faint describes a believer who loses heart and gets so discouraged that he or she wants to quit. I can recall an occasions when I have fainted physically, and it is the most helpless feeling I have ever experienced. I felt myself "going," but I couldn't seem to do a thing about it!

There is a connection between what our Lord said in Luke 18:1 and His statement in Luke 17:37. **If society is like a rotting corpse, then the “atmosphere” in which we live is being slowly polluted, and this is bound to affect our spiritual lives. But when we pray, we draw on the “pure air” of heaven, and this keeps us from fainting.**

**Luke 17:37** And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "**Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.**"

**Luke 18:1** And he told them a parable to the effect that **they ought always to pray and not lose heart.**

But what does it mean “**always to pray**” or to “**pray without ceasing**”? (1 Thes. 5:17) It certainly doesn’t mean that we should constantly be repeating prayers, because Jesus warned against that kind of praying (Matt. 6:5–15). **Rather, it means to make prayer as natural to us as our regular breathing.** Unless we are sick or smothering, we rarely think about our breathing; we just do it. Likewise with prayer—**it should be the natural habit of our lives, the “atmosphere” in which we constantly live.**

Prayer is much more than the words of our lips; **it is the desires of our hearts**, and our hearts are constantly “desiring” before Him, even if we never speak a word. **So, to “pray without ceasing” means to have such holy desires in our hearts, in the will of God, that we are constantly in loving communion with the Father, petitioning Him for His blessing.**

**Take your choice: do you want to pray—or faint?**

## **The widow contrasted with God's elect (v. 2–5).**

Jesus did not say that God's people are like this woman; in fact, He said just the opposite. Because we are not like her, **we should be encouraged in our praying.** He argued from the lesser to the greater: "If a poor widow got what she deserved from a selfish judge, **how much more will God's children receive what is right from a loving Heavenly Father!**"

**Consider the contrasts.** To begin with, **the woman was a stranger**, but we are the **children of God**, and God cares for His children (Luke 11:13). **The widow had no access to the judge, but God's children have an open access into His presence and may come at any time to get the help they need** (Eph. 2:18; 3:12; Heb. 4:14–16; 10:19–22).

**Luke 11:13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"**

**Ephesians 3:11-12** This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, **in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.**

**Hebrews 4:14-16** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession.** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,** that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The **woman had no friend** at court to help get her case on the docket. All she could do was walk around outside the tent and make a nuisance of herself as she shouted at the judge. But when **Christian believers pray**, they have in heaven a **Savior who is Advocate** (1 John 2:1) and **High Priest** (Heb. 2:17–18), **who constantly represents them before the throne of God.**

**1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But **if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

**Hebrews 2:14-18** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, **he himself likewise partook of the same things**, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, **so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God**, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.**

When we pray, we can open the Word and claim the many promises of God, but **the widow had no promises that she could claim** as she tried to convince the judge to hear her case. **We not only have God's unfailing promises, but we also have the Holy Spirit**, who assists us in our praying.

**Romans 8:26-27** Likewise **the Spirit helps us in our weakness**. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**.

Perhaps the greatest contrast is that the widow came to a court of law, but **God's children come to a throne of grace** (Heb. 4:14–16). She pled out of her poverty, but **we have all of God's riches available to us** to meet our every need (Phil. 4:19). The point is clear: **if we fail to pray, our condition spiritually will be just like that of the poor widow. That should encourage us to pray!**

**Philippians 4:19** And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**The judge contrasted with the Father (vv. 6–8).**

Unless you see that Jesus is pointing out contrasts, you will get the idea that God must be “argued” or “bribed” into answering prayer! **God is not like this judge; for God is a loving Father**, who is attentive to our every cry, generous in His gifts, concerned about our needs, and **ready to answer when we call**. The only reason the judge helped the widow was because he was afraid she would “weary” him, which literally means “give me a black eye”—i.e., ruin his reputation. **God answers prayer for His glory and for our good, and He is not vexed when we come.**

**How, then, do we explain delays in answers to prayer**, especially when Jesus said that God would “avenge [give them justice] speedily”? (Luke 18:8)

**Remember that God’s delays are not the delays of inactivity but of preparation.** God is always answering prayer, otherwise Romans 8:28 could not be in the Bible. **God works in all things at all times, causing all things to work together to accomplish His purposes.** The moment we send Him a request that is in His will (see 1 John 5:14–15), **God begins to work.** We may not see it now, but one day the answer will come.

**Isaiah 59:1** Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, **that it cannot save**, or his ear dull, **that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God**, and **your sins have hidden his face** from you so that he does not hear.

**Proverb 15:29** The LORD is far from the wicked, **but he hears the prayer of the righteous.**

**Proverb 28:9** If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even **his prayer is an abomination.**

**1 John 5:11-15** And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **Whoever has the Son has life;** whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And **this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.** And **if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.**

**Luke 18:8** I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find faith on earth?"**

The question in Luke 18:8 ties in with what Jesus taught in Luke 17:22–37: **“Shall He find [that kind of] faith on the earth?”** The end times will not be days of great faith.

Eight people were saved in Noah’s day, and only four out of Sodom (and one of them perished on the way). Passages like 1 Timothy 4 and 2 Timothy 3 **paint a dark picture of the last days.**

**So, where are you today?** Do you know Him, He who came and died so that you might live, **the one who is the Christ?**

Are you willing to trust Almighty God with everything? Have you surrendered everything to Jesus Christ?

**Isaiah 40:31** but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

**“On the anniversary of 9/11, I will visit  
America.”**

Alison Pound received from the Lord:

“Do not hesitate to send what I have said to you dear one. For I am in a hurry to bring recompense. I want the children to read this. Those who do not believe I will do more and are actively praying against war and natural disasters headed their way. They will not turn the hand of God. I am not hearing those prayers at this time. Time is short. Time is of the essence. You must obey Me quickly in these days ahead.

On the anniversary of 9/11, I will visit America. I will visit New York and the scene of this great crime. Such a terrible invasion, they say. But I am visiting the people again to see if they have learned the truth about this terrible tragedy. So many theories about what happened and who did it and why. I tell you that all that matters is what I the Lord your God say and what I do. All that matters is the response to what I do.

Who in this land and in this city has fallen to their knees and asked Me to forgive them for allowing sin to enter in? They have opened the doors with their actions. All are responsible. There is none innocent, none righteous. No, not one. For repentance is needful in all.

So, I am coming back to see if there is now a humility and a repentance. Knowing already that what I will find is no national outpouring. Yes, there will be much remembrance and mourning afresh on this day. But as for repentance, I see pockets of repentance only.

My remnant are on the move. I am so pleased with these ones. It gives Me joy to see them rise up. But I caution them now, that this is not over. **It has just begun.**

What will the response be when the next attack comes? For I assure you that it will. My hand lifted from this nation and I have not placed it back. The walls are down and the enemy comes in like a flood. So set up your memorials, you who have lost loved ones, those who grieve that America is changed forever. But instead of looking back, **you must look forward** and prepare for what is coming next to this place.

Yes, America is changed forever. **There will be no going back. The only way forward is through Me.** Those who choose another way will be cut off. I will bring calamity, I will bring flood, fire, earthquakes, invasion, war and every form of hardship to those who choose another way, a way other than through Me. If the people will not cry out in praise to Me, their Creator, then the very rocks will cry out.

I am coming. Be warned America, I am coming.

**Take the words shared here, to the Lord in prayer!**

**1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits to see whether they are from God**, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**Act 17:11** Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; **they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**

Is our Nation closer to God today, then in 2001?  
Repent and Pray! Be Warned! Be Ready!  
**DO NOT LOSE HEART**, for He is with us!

# Amazing Grace

## Hymn 107

