

God is for me

God is on our side when life seems unjust

Outline Notes

Luke 18:1-8 (niv)

In **Luke 18**, we find two parables that deal with the subject of prayer...
Evidently the factor of persistence in prayer was very important to Jesus.

Are we persistent in our prayers? Have we lost heart and don't pray as we ought?

... Understanding the Parable

1. The character of the Judge.

Luke 18:2 (niv)

The judge was a person who did not fear God nor regard (*respect*) man.

2. The distress of the widow.

Luke 18:3 (niv)

She had an adversary who has wronged her and she sought the aid of the judge to help her. She had a just cause.

3. The difficulty she faced.

Luke 18:4a (niv) *For some time he refused...*

The judge wouldn't help her at first her attempts seem to fall on deaf ears.

4. At last the Judge notices her complaint.

Luke 18:4b-5 (niv)

He was moved by the persistence of the widow (*because she had a just cause*).
It wasn't out of reverence for God or regard for man.

... Applying the Parable

1. God will listen to His people

If an unjust judge will listen to a persistent widow ... how much more will a '**Just God**' answer His chosen people!

The Widow	vs's	God's People
A stranger		His elect - 1 Peter 2:9-10 (niv)
Only one		We are many
At a distance		We can come boldly - Hebrews 4:15-16 (niv)
An unjust judge		A righteous Father
On her own		God is for us - Romans 8:31-32 (niv)
Pleads her own case		Christ our Advocate - Romans 8:34 (niv)
No assurance of an answer		Promised it will be given - Luke 18:8a (niv)
Access limited		Access unlimited (<i>can pray to God anytime</i>)
Asking provoked judge		Asking delights God

If persistence paid off for the widow, how much more will it pay off for God's people who pray?

2. God will stand with His people.

Luke 18:7b (niv)

His longsuffering may be to give the persecutors time to repent. **2 Peter 3:9** (niv)
 There is a Day coming in which God will take vengeance. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**

... So, why don't people pray?

Here are some suggested reasons for the prayerlessness of God's people.

1. Disobedience to God.

We are commanded to pray...

- at all times (**Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**)
- in all places (**Psalms 61:1-2**)
- in all circumstances (**Psalms 55:16-17**)
- for all needs (**Philippians 4:6**)

2. Lack of Confidence.

3. Wrong priorities.

... Conclusion

Have you begun to lose heart? Has your faith weakened?

The state of our "prayer life" reveals the true condition of our faith!

If we do not pray "**without ceasing**" 1 Thessalonians 5:17, our faith is waning!