



Don't Lose Heart

By Jeff Bedwell on January 27, 2021

READING: Luke 18

The opening words of this chapter speak to our ongoing need of encouragement in prayer. "And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart" (vs. 1).

We may have started off the year with the best of intentions to be more consistent in our prayer life, but then "real life" seems to get in the way. There is always a crisis, a distraction, a justifiable need for a little more sleep; something that gets in the way of our best intentions to be a person of prayer. Sometimes we may wonder if our prayers are even making a difference. Discouragement sets in.

Jesus' parable of contrasts encourages us to pray. The widow was a stranger - we are the children of God. She had no "connections" to get her in - we have an advocate in Christ Jesus (1 John 2:1). She was coming before a court of law - we come before the throne of grace. She was coming before an uncaring, unrighteous judge - we come before our just and loving Heavenly Father.

If she could persevere in the face of such adversity and still see justice done, how much more should we persevere coming into the presence of our Heavenly Father who is full of love, wisdom and power? Do not let the enemy discourage you! God is there, He is listening, He still answers prayer!

If your intentions have outpaced your practice in the area of prayer, there is always an opportunity to begin again. Pick a time, pick a place, follow a pattern, or find a partner if that will help. Get started and make adjustments along the way. You will find your Heavenly Father welcoming you into His presence. He has been expecting you!

Prayer: "Father, sometimes I get discouraged and disappointed in myself. Thank you that I can come into Your presence today. Teach me to pray and not lose heart."

TOMORROW'S READING: Luke 19

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