

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 11- Luke 11:1-13** 208- Lord, Teach Us to Pray

June 30, 2013

Luke 11:1-13

1 It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

3 'Give us each day our daily bread.

4 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

5 Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him';

7 and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.'

8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

11 Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

12 Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

To the Glory of God

Prayer is mentioned in the Bible over 520 times- yet it is probably the least understood and the most neglected of all the ministries in the Church today. Conversely, preaching is only mentioned 144 times in the Bible. So from a purely mathematical point of view- we should be praying 3.6 times as much as we preach! In fact, there should never be a sermon written or preached that has not been received through very intense study and very intense prayer.

A message that is based purely upon education and seminary training is fine and will no doubt do some good. But a message that has been spoken by the Mouth of the Ancient of Days and heard by the ear of a consecrated and dedicated bond slave of the Lord Jesus Christ and delivered by the mouth of a willing and yielded bond-slave will not only do some good- but it will change your life and revolutionize the world!

Those of you who have been here awhile know that I have long time stressed the three pillars of your walk with God:

1. Prayer
2. Bible Study
3. Godly Fellowship

I believe today as strongly in these three items as I ever have and want to re-emphasize them to you again this morning. If you will avail yourself of these three items in an ongoing and disciplined way- you will not fail in what God has called you to do. Without them- it is only matter of time before you fail and that you fail badly. In short these three concepts are your backbone. You are no stronger in God than is your time with God's Word in study, your time with God in prayer, and your time with other believers who are spending time in prayer and study.

Every Ministry in this Church has been designed on purpose to help facilitate your Salvation and your walk with God so that in, by, and through Prayer; Bible Study; and Fellowship- you will know God;

and you will learn and grow in your love for God; and you will learn and grow in your ability to enjoy Him forever.

Now over the last several years- I have spent a great deal of time stressing the need for us to read and study God's Word and to learn what God has said and to learn what God means by what he has said and to learn how to apply God's Word to our daily lives- all for the glory of God and the fulfillment of our own joy. Now today I want to emphasize the need and the privilege of talking to God and fellowshiping with God in prayer.

The Bible teaches that if you pray- you will be strong in the Spirit and you will not faint or grow weary. And therefore by inference- the Bible also teaches that if you do not develop and have a strong and powerful and ongoing effectual and fervent prayer life- you will grow weak, your walk with God will become a stagger, your feet will slip, your head will spin, sin will become attractive, and you will faint and pass out and stumble and fall back.

Things happen when God's people pray. Your life will be transformed through ongoing and persistent seasons of prayer. And conversely things go undone when prayer is neglected or forgotten or not allowed and when the pull of the world becomes too great to resist.

When you pray and talk to the Author of the Bible- He will strengthen your life. When you pray- mountains will be removed from before you. When you pray- walls will come crashing down around you. Barriers will fall. Enemies will become your brother; Hard things will become easy; Burdens will be lifted. Prayer makes turns sin into righteousness and weaknesses into strengths. Times spent with God in prayer will turn depression into hope, Pain into Joy, and Mourning into Rejoicing. Jesus said that we should pray and not faint!

It is nothing short of a scandal as to the obscene lack of prayer among those in the modern Church who say that they love the Lord. To far too many today- prayer is merely something that we do before and after something important. For example- if those of us who are married spent the same amount of time talking to our spouses that do in prayer- the divorce rate would be 100%. And we laugh at that, but I want you to know that that scares me to death. I tremble at the thought that my time of communion with my God would become an afterthought or a formality or a part time hobby and something that I do if I don't have anything else to do.

Dear friends- I am sorely afraid this morning that we have become a nation of people who tip the Lord God with only a token of our availability and energy in prayer- while we then pontificate about great revelations and great power, and great glory. And as I pondered this phenomenon- I came to one conclusion- a single word: TIME. God's people are not praying today because praying takes time- and we are too busy. You see, taking time to pray means having a commitment and setting priorities. It means by default that we purposefully don't do some things and we don't engage in some things- with premeditation and forethought- so that we will have time to pray. Because make no mistake about it- commitment absolutely means sacrifice. And sacrifice means dedication. And dedication means love.

Dear friends- there is no such thing as having a commitment without making sacrifices and there is no such thing as making sacrifices without dedication and there will be dedication only to the degree that there is strong and powerful and ongoing love.

So every single time I do not pray- I am consciously choosing something else over my time with God. I am placing a superior value and a superior worth to that thing that robbed me of my time with God in prayer- and whatever that thing is- whether it is the job or making money or spending time with the spouse or sleep- it is an idol- and it is at war with God.

We must come to understand that we always take the time for those things that we love. We always make time for those things that are important to us and that we deem to be worthwhile and that are valuable. And in every case- for every person- when you take time for something that you love- that means that you consciously choose the one thing over the other.

Today- we live in a supercharged society. Everything is fast paced. We buy faster and faster computers- why? To save time. We have telephones that will dial memorized numbers. Why? To save time. The Mississippi Highway Patrol put out a report that 68% of all traffic violations are for speeding. Why? Because the driver was in a hurry to get somewhere. It is estimated that 33% of all messages left on voice mail systems were done so because the guy you were calling was on the phone retrieving all his voice mails. Fast Food; Drive Up Windows; Microwave Ovens; Check by Phone; Call Waiting. Go- Go- Go. Faster, faster, faster. By the time you come home from work, your

emotions are cooked; Your brain is fried; Your body is exhausted; and Your spirit is drained.

My beloved, listen to me- the God that loves us has a better life for us than this. Our wonderful Lord Jesus promised us that He would allow us to have an abundant life- one that was filled with Joy, Peace, and Love. He said that He would commune with us as friend to friend. He promised us that in this world we would have tribulation- and we can all relate to that- but He didn't stop there. He also said, "Be of good cheer- I have overcome the world".

So Jesus is telling you and I that if we allow Him to rule and govern our lives- we will have a power- an ability- to escape the things that have come upon the world through their own deeds. Listen to what Jesus told us in **Luke 21:29 -36**:

29 Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees;

30 as soon as they put forth *leaves*, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near."

32 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place.

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

34 "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap;

35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.

36 But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Now notice that Jesus never mentioned some of the sins that we would like to put way up on our list of what is right and wrong. Our Savior warned about our hearts being weighted down with only three things here:

1. Dissipation
2. Drunkenness
3. The worries of life

So why did Jesus talk about these three things? Because each of these three things- dissipation , drunkenness, and the worries of this life- have to do with “overindulging”. And when we are overindulging when we are indulging over and above what is necessary or productive- we are robbing God of our time and ourselves of the best we have to offer and the result of overindulging is that we will never have the time to engage in the two things that Jesus told us to do- Watch and Pray.

Now the Greek word that was translated into English here as “dissipation” means: *self-indulgence or wastefulness*. And self-indulgence is doing something or being a part of something or indulging in something for the exclusive glory and the benefit and the self. And what does the self of fallen man enjoy and crave? To be praised to be exalted to be pampered to be lifted up and exalted.

Now this doesn't mean that it is always wrong to do something that you enjoy- but it does mean that when that is all you do- when that is all you seek after, when that is all your crave, and all you enjoy- then you are dissipating. It is also interesting that dissipation is the first cousin to laziness and of being unproductive and of vegetating- things that God despises.

Now certainly we have to eat and drink in order to live. Proper nutrition is essential to good health. Eating and drinking is good and wonderful and is a gift from God. But when we overindulge in our eating- when we eat and drink just for the sake of eating and drinking, we are sinning against our own bodies and spending more time on our flesh than we are on our spirit. And we are robbing God of a body that is useful and productive for God's glory.

You see, the flesh profits us nothing, but those who mind the things of the spirit will have life and peace.

Now it is also true that we have to live on this earth. And that requires that we have things. And things break and need fixing and replacing. And the more things we have- the more thing break and need fixing or replacing. And that too is good and is a gift from God. But when we lust after more and more things just for the sake of having more than the next or when we require things to make us feel better about ourselves- we have crossed over into overindulgence and we have sinned.

Now why in the world did Jesus tell us about this? Because He wants us to enjoy a wonderful life with Him. He wants to walk with us

in the garden in the cool of the day as He did with Adam. And Jesus said that these three things will act as a snare to enslave those who are caught up in them.

Now why is that? Because when we overindulge we are not doing the things that are needful to sustain life, but rather our time and energy and our hearts are fixed on those things and our time is wasted on the pursuit of the things that will one day vanish away. And I say unto you that when your heart is fixed on the things of this earth- you will never have the time, nor will you have the inclination to spend time with God in prayer and over a period of time, you will grow weak and you will faint!

Every man of God in the Bible who followed Jesus understood that time spent in prayer and the study of God's Word was the most valuable time on this earth. It was far more important than eating and even more important than sleeping- and that is why those Biblical examples often went long periods of time without eating and rose up early in the morning to pray. It equipped them for every single task that they faced.

And I tell you on the authority of God's Word that if we will dare to make prayer as much of a priority as they did- we will be equipped to handle all of life's problems and trials in a way that will bring glory and honor to Jesus Christ too.

So I ask you today to examine your prayer life. How strong is it? How much time do you spend talking to God? James said that the effectual prayer of a righteous man avails much. Is your prayer time fervent? Is it hot and fiery? Or has it grown cold and dark? Is your prayer time effectual? Are you praying in accord with God's Word to honor God or are you praying self- centered prayers to feed your flesh? .

Jesus was a Man of prayer. In Luke 3:21- He was praying when the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove. In Luke 4:1-15- He began His Ministry with a 40-day season of fasting and prayer in the wilderness. In Luke 5:16- Jesus withdrew Himself into the wilderness to pray. In Luke 6:12- He prayed all night before choosing the twelve Apostles. And in Luke 9:18- Jesus was praying alone just before He asked Peter, **"Who do you say that I am?" (Luke 9:18).**

In Luke 9:28- Just before He was transfigured, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on the mountain to pray. And here again in Luke 11:1- Jesus was praying at the beginning of our text this morning. So

as fully Man- Jesus sought His strength and guidance from the Father in prayer.

So from this alone- we should feel motivated to make prayer more central in our lives. I want to be more like Jesus. And so I want to be a man of prayer more than ever.

But that's not all. Jesus also taught us how to pray, and made amazing Promises to us about prayer. So He lived a life of prayer and He taught a life of prayer. And it is the Will of the Lord Jesus Christ that Covenant of Peace be a Church of prayer; that our Sanctuary be a House of Prayer; and that our people be given to daily, prevailing prayer for personal needs, for the Power of the Spirit, for the progress of the Gospel, and for the Glory of God's great Name.

We know this beyond any doubt. So I urge you now to open yourself to what Jesus is saying to you through the Passage that Brother Andy just read to you. Ask Him right now to give you a new heart for prayer ministry for the remainder of this year (2013).

Now I want to mention four things in this text that Jesus teaches us about praying—four directions based on four Promises.

1. Prayer Must be God-Centered

Jesus teaches us to make our praying God-centered. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray (**Luke 11:1**), He said in **Luke 11:2**:

Luke 11:2

... When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come.

...so these are requests. All of the Lord's Prayer is requests- not thanks or praise- but requests. Jesus said that our first desire- our first request- should be that God's Holy and Great Name be hallowed or glorified, and that His Kingdom advance and come. This is what I mean by when I say that Prayer must be radically God-centered. The Glory of God's Name and the advancement of God's Kingdom are the primary concerns of genuine prayer- not things that may make our lives more comfortable down here.

Now most of us know the difference between immature prayer and mature, God-centered prayer. We know we are in a different atmosphere—a higher one—when we hear someone pray with these Biblical priorities that Jesus teaches here. It just rings true. And praying with God centered priorities should be taught and learned in Church.

For many years- I believed that a good prayer meeting was one where the people cried out loud to God with lots of volume and lots of emotion and lots of passion. And passionate, emotional, loud prayers are fine- but if we do not pray with these holy priorities- if our prayers are not Biblical; if what we ask of God is not radically God centered and seeking to glorify God's Name and seeking to advance the Kingdom of God- then all the emotion in the world will not bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ.

Now based on **Luke 11:2-4**- praying with God centered priorities would sound something like this:

"Father, we long to see You honored more and more in our church and our city and in our homes and in our own personal lives. Cause Your Name to be hallowed among us. Magnify Your Worth and Your Glory in our midst.

Deliver us from loving the things of this world and let Your Kingdom come. Take up your kingly rule more and more fully over our Church and our lives and our families and our city. And hasten the day of Christ's final appearing. Meet our physical needs we pray, so that we can press on with joy in the work you call us to for Your Name's sake. Forgive us, O Lord, where we have sinned and fallen short of Your Glory. And keep us from entangling temptations that will trip us up and bring reproach upon Your Name. In Jesus' Name and for His sake- Amen."

Now there are a thousand ways to pray like this. And so my plea is not that you use my words- and not even that you will memorize and just quote the words of Jesus here in **Luke**- but that you have Jesus' *priorities* in your prayer; that you pray "after this manner"; and that you express these priorities in your praying- specifically that the Father's Name be hallowed and that God's Kingdom would come.

Now if this feels strange or foreign to you- if you never plead for the Name of God to be hallowed or if you never ask for the Kingdom of

God to come- don't be content today to stay stuck at that immature level of praying. Instead say in a fresh, new way to God this week:

Father, hallow Your Name IN MY LIFE and IN MY PRAYING from now on like never before.

And the Promise that will encourage you to follow Jesus' direction on this first point comes from **Ezekiel 36:23**:

I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD , declares the Lord GOD , when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

So the prophet Ezekiel is saying here that God will see to it that His Name WILL be vindicated among all the nations as being both True and Glorious. But God has decreed that we will have a hand in this triumph- that we play a part in God vindicating the Holiness of His great Name and that is through our prayers. So make the Glory of God the very center of your prayers. Pray again and again, with as many different words as you can think of,

"Father, let Your Name be hallowed and let Your Kingdom come!"

2. Prayer Must be Secure in the Father's Love

Now in this passage in **Luke 11**- Jesus also teaches us to pray with a sense of security in the Father's Love. Jesus doesn't want us to feel precarious and insecure in our prayers. And He shows this primarily by teaching us to call God, "Father" when we pray to Him. The prayer in **Luke 11:2** begins, simply, "Our Father." And then in verses 11-13- Jesus unpacks for us some of the security implied in this word, "Father":

Luke 11:11-13

11 Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

12 Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

So this is the second Promise to encourage us in our praying- we may rest secure in God's Love.

The words "**how much more**" in verse 13- means something utterly crucial for us. They mean that God is much more inclined to hear us and help us when we pray than our own earthly fathers are. Now why does Jesus talk this way? Surely, it is because He means for us to feel secure in the Father's Love when we come to Him in prayer. Jesus does not want us to feel precarious or unsure of our acceptance or fearful that we will find the Father out of sorts or unconcerned with us.

And this sense of security is utterly crucial in the life of prayer and the life of worship. You can't sustain a life of prayer long term if you believe God is stonewalling you or angry with you or even neutral towards you. Prayer is sustained by the confidence that God is our Father and that He is concerned about us and that His disposition towards us is exactly what Jesus says it is:

God is MORE inclined to give what we need than the best human father ever was.

That's the Promise from the lips of Jesus Christ Himself. And the direction is: pray with a sense of this kind of everlasting security in the Father's Love.

3. We Must Prevail Without Doubting God's Love

Thirdly- in addition to teaching us to be *secure* in God's Love- Jesus also teaches us to prevail in prayer without *doubting* the Father's Love.

And by prevailing- I mean that we have to "hang in there". We have to persevere in prayer. We must persist in our petitions to God. Our prayers must be ongoing; and we must never give up; We must continually press onward and upward- continuing to ask and continuing to seek and continuing to knock at Heaven's door until the answer comes- or until God says, "*Stop praying.*"

Now I realize that the instruction to "prevail in prayer" seems to be inconsistent with the instruction to be "secure in the Love of the

Father". We are prone to ask, *"If God is more caring than the best earthly father- then why would He sometimes be slow to respond to my prayer?"*

But please notice: it wasn't *my* decision to put these two things beside each other- Jesus did this- not me. So our Lord tells the story in **Luke 11:5-8** that illustrates this point:

Luke 11:5-8

5 Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him';

7 and from inside he answers and says, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.'

8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

Now here is a man who goes to his friend's house in the middle of the night to say that a guest just arrived and there isn't enough in the house to feed him; *"Could you please get up and lend me three loaves of bread?"* But the man says, *"The door is locked, the children are asleep in his room, so don't bother me now."*

But what happens? The friend keeps knocking and asking until the man gets up- not because of his friendship- but because of the man's prevailing, persisting, persevering knocking. Now most of us look at this as being a very unattractive image of the transaction of prayer- but it is very important.

Beginning in **Luke 11:9**- Jesus says that there is a tremendous lesson to be learned here:

Luke 11:9b&10

9 ... ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

So Jesus emphasizes three things here about prevailing and not giving up in prayer. One is the tense of the verbs in the original Greek. When the present tense is used here- it means that there is a *continuous* action- we are to *keep on* asking; we are to continue to knock and we are to continue to be faithful and to seek.

The second is the fact that Jesus *commands* this continuous action three times and then repeats these three words (ask; seek; knock) again in verse 10.

The third thing that teaches us what prevailing in prayer looks like is that the three words that Jesus uses get increasingly close to the answer and show a "pressing in" on God:

1. Asking (as it were, for the house)
2. Seeking (until we find it)
3. Knocking (until the door is open)

So asking is the simplest of these three and requires no movement. Seeking however- turns asking into an activity of pursuit. And knocking on and on at the door again and again signifies utter earnestness and perhaps even desperation.

So the reason that Jesus told this story here is because He clearly wants us to be like this friend who kept asking, seeking and knocking. He want us to prevail in prayer. But then He makes a sudden turn in verse 11 and shifts from the troubling image of a grumpy friend- to the glorious image of a caring Heavenly Father.

So what's the point of the whole section? The point is to show us that prevailing prayer—persisting, persevering prayer—is utterly important for us. And Jesus stamps this Truth on our memories with a shocking image of friend who won't help without being *bothered* into helping. But then Jesus qualifies His point in verses 11-13 by saying that God is **NOT** like that friend. God is the most caring Father imaginable.

So yes- God sometimes gives us what we need only after a long season of prevailing and persisting in prayer. But no- it is not because He is uncaring or insensitive or unable. Why then does God sometimes postpone the answer? Because God is working something far greater in us and through than He could if He did answer the prayer swiftly.

Luke 11:11&12

11 Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

12 Or *if* he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

Now two earlier manuscripts add the phrase:

“Loaf; he will not give him a stone, will he?”

... to the beginning of verse 11- but the point here is that every translation agrees on is that Jesus says that a good father will not give his son a serpent if the son has asked for a fish. In other words- a *good* father will only give his children what is good for them. This is the only answer Jesus gives to our question in this text. So we conclude this Truth:

When the Father in Heaven gives us a slow answer—when He wills that we prevail for a season in prayer with seemingly no answer— it is because God is actually giving us a fish and not a serpent. God is giving us a good gift and not something that is bad. So in those seasons of tough prevailing prayer- the Promise of Jesus is that God is giving us what is good for us- rather than what is bad for us. So that means that there is something in the prevailing; in the continual asking and in the ongoing seeking and the habitual knocking—that we need- that is good for us that God desires to give to us- and this is the way or the manner in which God has chosen to give that good thing to us. And so we must learn to trust in those times that God knows what we have need of- better than we do.

The Promise that will encourage us in times of slow answers and prevailing prayer is **Luke 11:10:**

For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

... so according to the Holy Bible and the recorded Words of the Lord Jesus Christ- God is not unresponsive to prevailing prayer.

4. We Must Prevail for the Holy Spirit

Now the final direction that Jesus gives is in a sense a circling back to the first point of God-centeredness. And this must become our heartbeat. And if we may properly understand what Jesus is saying here- Our Lord means for this God centeredness to be the prevailing heartbeat of our individual lives and as a Church from now on.

Jesus teaches in **Luke 11:13** that our prevailing in prayer should actually be a prevailing for the Holy Spirit:

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

It is no coincidence that Luke tells us in **Luke 3:21** that while Jesus was praying- the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove. Or when he said in **The Acts 2**- that the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost came as the climax of a ten-day prayer vigil. Or that in **The Acts 4:31**- when the church had prayed- the place where they gathered was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Prevailing prayer is the pathway to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And lest you think God is distant from you, and inattentive to you when the Spirit tarries- listen to this encouragement.

When you prevail in prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit- more is happening in your life through this prevailing prayer than you could ever imagine. God waits because our prevailing is good for us. May the Lord forbid that we would lose heart and fail in the very thing needful: mighty prevailing prayer.

So let us learn how to persevere in prayer and how to prevail in our prayers with God-centeredness and with a sense of security in the fatherly Love of God, and with a new resolve to prevail and persist in prayer without doubting God's Love. And let us prevail specifically in praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit- His Power; His Strength; and His fullest blessing— while rejoicing that the prevailing itself is a great Work of the indwelling Spirit of the living God. The great Puritan Theologian, Matthew Henry said,

"We prevail with men by importunity because they are displeased with it, but with God because he is pleased with it."

Isaiah 62:6&7

6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,
7 And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Luke 18:1-8

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.**
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?**