

## PRAYERS THAT TOUCH GOD'S HEART (I): PERSEVERING PRAYER

*Luke 18:1-8*

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Recap: Pray Shamelessly! (Luke 11:5-13)

### Context (17:22-18:1)

As Jesus' second coming nears (17:22), many will respond by turning to false saviours (17:23-25) or being absorbed in the routines and comforts of earthly life (17:26-29). Both are escapist behaviours. Instead, Christians must be prepared to lose our life for Christ (17:33).

How do we nurture such enduring faith?

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.* (18:1)

### Characters (18:2-5)

The judge

The widow

### Contrast (18:6-8a)

God is not like the unjust judge! He is holy, just, compassionate. He will deal with injustice upon his sudden return, that the righteous may be free to enjoy God and his kingdom for eternity.

### Charge (18:8b)

Because of who God is, we must persevere in prayer as a way to cultivate enduring faith.

### Pray

- For our hearts to not be desensitized to how hostile the world is to God.
- For ourselves and other Christians to be given grace and perseverance as we minister in such a world.
- For unbelieving family members and friends to encounter and believe in Jesus.
- For a deeper longing for Jesus' return.

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## **PRAYERS THAT TOUCH GOD'S HEART (II): HUMBLE PRAYER**

*Luke 18:9-14*

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### Context (18:9)

What kind of faith does the Son of Man look for when he comes?

### Characters (18:10)

The pharisee

The tax collector

### Contrast (18:11-13)

The prayer of pride

The prayer of humility

### Charge (18:14)

Because of what God has done, we must pray humbly that we may stand rightly before him and be honoured at the day of his coming.

### Pray

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”