

Persistence in Prayer

Today's Reading Luke 18:1-8

Nobody likes pests...neither the six-legged insect variety nor their two-legged human counterpart! The insect variety may cause you to swing wildly or turn on the light in frustration in the middle of the night. The human versions may eventually wear you down to the point of giving in to their pleas.

That last statement is part of the premise behind this parable from Jesus. Thankfully, verse 1 tells us exactly what the take home from the parable was intended to be: "Always pray! Never give up!" Is that a good description of you? Many people are more appropriately characterized by the twin phrases: "Always worry! Never stop!" or "Fret always! Pray seldom!"

If you paid much attention to the parable, you probably discovered some qualities and responses of the judge that you didn't particularly like.

- He didn't fear God
- He didn't care about men
- He only responded out of reluctance to this nuisance of a woman

Those are not points that find parallel with God. He loves people and yearns to give them what is best. Why use this judge as a key character? While he, like God, could bring about justice, the unspoken but understood idea is that, "If godless, uncaring people eventually respond to the persistent, just plea of their fellow man, how much more will your loving heavenly Father who cares infinitely for you respond?"

So, are you one who persists in prayer? Are you stretching yourself to grow in this area of your life? The discipline of focused prayer can be hard to maintain. The tendency towards mind-wandering distraction can be difficult to overcome. The propensity to fret instead of talk to God can seem more natural. Nevertheless, the sovereign King of kings loves to hear you acknowledge your dependence on Him and delights in giving good gifts to His children. What things should you address with Him now in prayer?