

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

9.24.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Men Ought Always to Pray, and not to Faint.

## **Luke 18: 1 – 8**

Do we always get immediate results when we pray? The answer is no, and it is for this reason that we often time give up, and therefore we do not always pray as we should. Effective prayer requires perseverance and faithfulness and is based upon our absolute trust in God and his word. We can fully count on God to answer our prayers, but it is going to be when, and where, he chooses to do so. For this reason, we are encouraged to faint not, but we are to continue to trust that Gods will be done. As believers, the danger that we face is that we will allow our faith in Christ, and our love for him and for one another in the body of Christ to be swallowed up by the opposition of our daily life in the world. So, what can we do to avoid this, the answer is to pray always and faint not.

**Hebrews 12: 3**,....for consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds....

As believers, we are to consider Christ and all that he is, and all that he has done for us, in order that we may not grow weary, or lose faith, but that we will continue to trust him in all things, and at all times. Christ lived his life here upon this earth from the beginning to the end as God the Father intends for mankind to live, which is in humble obedience, while walking in spirit and in truth.

In our life in Christ, difficulties are to be expected, but this does not mean that every circumstance that we face has been specifically caused by God, nor does it mean that it is a punishment for something that we have done wrong. If we will allow it to do so, through the working of the Holy Spirit, God will show unto us that the circumstances in our life that we are experiencing can be turned into spiritual growth that will help us in strengthening our life in Christ, so that we might become more faithful unto his word.

**Luke 18: 1 – 8**,....he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not faint....there was....a judge, who feared not God, neither regarded man....there was a widow....saying, avenge me of my adversary....he said within himself....I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me....shall not God avenge his own elect....he will avenge them speedily....nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith upon the earth....

How important is our relationship with God? Before we were saved, we had no relationship with God, but once we, by faith believing, accepted the saving grace of Jesus Christ, then it is absolutely necessary to remain in constant communication with the Lord, and not to give up, but rather to live in prayer, and in word, moment by moment, in order to maintain a close, ongoing relationship with God. We need to encourage others and we need to be encouraged by others, to diligently seek the Lord while he may be found. It is only a humble heart, who trusts in Christ alone, that will maintain a constant, uninterrupted fellowship through an attitude of unbroken prayer.

**Isaiah 55: 6**,....seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near....

God through his mercy, grace, and compassion, calls mankind into a life of spiritual renewal. In order for this to take place in our life, we must completely abandon our sinful lifestyle, and receive the forgiveness made possible unto us through Christ. There should be an urgency and a seriousness to dedicating our lives to the pursuit of Gods plan and purpose and will for our life. This is a matter of life and death, for there will come a time when the opportunity to respond to Gods invitation to always pray and faint not, will run out.

**Amos 5: 4**,....for thus saith the Lord....seek ye me, and ye shall live....

**Amos 5: 14,....**seek good, and not evil, that ye may live, and so the Lord, the God of host, shall be with you....

God desires only his righteousness for all his people, but it must be by his standards. Sadly, we live in a world where the truth of Gods word has been replaced by immorality, false religions, and self-righteousness, but through prayer, and communication in Gods word we are encouraged to pursue the righteousness of God, with humility and through obedience, which is the foundation of our life and our relationship with God.

**Luke 18: 7,....**shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Our spiritual inheritance is one that has given unto us free and open access to Gods throne of grace. It is up to us to choose to accept Gods great privilege of mercy, so that we might find grace to help in our time of need. But let us remember, that any delay in Gods response to our prayers does not constitute a lack of interest on his part, but is in preparation to make all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose.

**Hebrews 4: 16,....**let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Our prayer life, through the word of God, should not be taken lightly as some do, for it is of great eternal value to our life in Christ, and to the lives of those whom we lift up in prayer to God. It was only by Gods great mercy and grace that he gave his only begotten Son, that through the crucifixion the vail of the temple, that signified that which separated man and God, was torn in two, providing mankind with an ever-important access into the presence of God. Therefore, we are encouraged to come unto him, and to keep coming unto him, without worldly fear or doubt.

**Hebrews 10: 22,....**let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith....

When we talk to God, there should be no doubt in our hearts or in our minds, but it should be with a full assurance that what God has said through the promises of his word, that he will do. The only restrictions to our prayer life are the ones that we put upon ourselves. Now, the one thing that we must remember, is that when we pray, even though we are praying for that which is taking place in our present time, that the outcome, or the knowledge of our prayers should be that of eternal value and everlasting life. This is why Christ taught his disciples to pray: thy kingdom come thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

**Matthew 6: 10,....**thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven....

Christ also prayed this while in the garden the night before he was arrested, he was talking to the Father, showing us the importance of praying, using the word of God, so when he prayed, he prayed nevertheless not my will, but thine be done.

**Luke 22: 42,....**nevertheless not my will but thine be done....

If we go back and study this passage of scripture, we will see that Christ himself shows unto us the importance of our life of communication with the Father, for he said, in agony he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling unto the ground.

**Luke 22: 44,....**and being in agony he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground....

Christ being in agony shows unto us the compassion that he had for all of humanity, because it speaks of suffering, not physical, but of his spiritual suffering and anguish for the lives of all humanity, not willing that any should perish but that all would come to the knowledge of salvation. Like wise when he speaks of his sweat as it were great drops of blood, it shows unto us that Christ was giving his very own life in prayer for the lives of all mankind. When Christ prayed, he spiritually and physically became what he prayed, for he was our greatest example that men ought always to pray and faint not. Therefore, do we have that same love, mercy, grace, and compassion of God in our life, so that we might do the same for our loved ones, for our friends, our family, and our neighbors, this means all of those whom God allows us in some way to come in contact with and become a part of their lives.

Let us Pray.

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