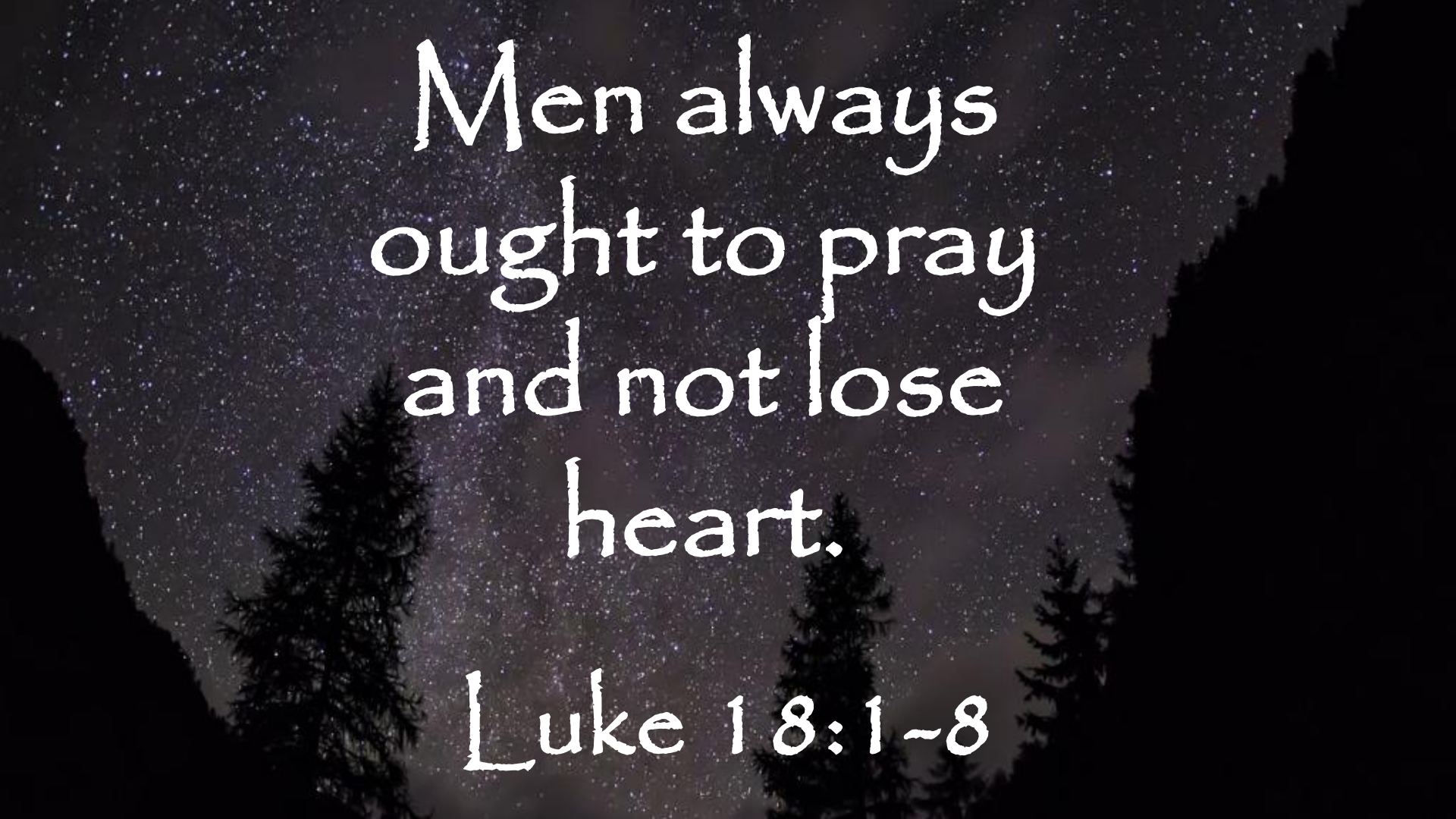

Men always
ought to pray
and not lose
heart.
Luke 18:1-8

One of the most common words we often use alongside the word *prayer* is *power*. The world is full of resources that tout "the power". While I realize that this is often a simple matter of semantics, the words we use can definitely impact our outlook and our behavior. Rather than highlight the power of prayer, I think it would be better to focus on the **power of God to answer prayer**. If we're led to believe that our prayers themselves possess power, then **when** we're lacking focus or energy or desire or enthusiasm or even the "right" words, we're prone to become discouraged and conclude that prayer is powerless. This will, in turn, make us less inclined to persevere in prayer…

But suppose our focus is on our almighty, omnipotent God, who spans the universe with His hand, who has sovereign control over every atom in the universe, and for whom nothing is impossible. Then, the consciousness of our own feebleness against the backdrop of such a powerful God who loves us will make us more eager to pour out our hearts to Him, knowing that He hears our faintest whispers and can move mountains and galaxies to fulfill His will in our lives.

~ Emeal Zwayne

Men always ought to pray and not lose heart

- Pray Always
- Pray Fervently
- Pray as a Lifestyle
- Pray as Jesus Modeled for us

Philippians 1:3-6

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:14-15

14 Now this is the confidence that we
have in Him, that if we ask anything
according to His will, He hears
us. 15 And if we know that He hears us,
whatever we ask, we know that we
have the petitions that we have asked
of Him.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Colossians 4:2-4

2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being
vigilant in it with thanksgiving 3 meanwhile
praying also for us, that God would open to
us a door for the word, to speak the
mystery of Christ, for which I am also in
chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I
ought to speak.

Philippians 4:6

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in **everything** by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Daniel 9:18-19

18 O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open
Your eyes and see our desolations, and the
city which is called by Your name; for we do
not present our supplications before You
because of our righteous deeds, but because
of Your great mercies. 19 O Lord, hear! O Lord,
forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay
for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and
Your people are called by Your name.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in
everything by prayer and supplication,
with thanksgiving, let your requests be
made known to God; 7 and the peace of
God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts
and minds through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 6:18-20

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

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But suppose our focus is on our almighty, omnipotent God, who spans the universe with His hand, who has sovereign control over every atom in the universe, and for whom nothing is impossible. Then, the consciousness of our own feebleness against the backdrop of such a powerful God who loves us will make us more eager to pour out our hearts to Him, knowing that He hears our faintest whispers and can move mountains and galaxies to fulfill His will in our lives.

~ Emeal Zwayne, president of Living Waters

Would that we might understand God's counsels of grace for us! 'The flesh' on the cross – the Spirit in the heart and controlling the life.

This spiritual life is too little understood or sought after; yet it is literally what God has promised and will accomplish in those who unconditionally surrender themselves to Him for this purpose.

Here we have the deep root of evil as the cause of a prayerless life. ‘The flesh’ can say prayers well enough, calling itself religious for doing so and thus satisfying conscience.

But ‘the flesh’ has no desire or strength for prayer that strives after an intimate knowledge of God; that rejoices in fellowship with Him; and continues to lay hold of His strength. **So finally, it comes to this, ‘the flesh’ must be denied and crucified.**

~ Andrew Murray

Scripture Meditation

Luke 18:1

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.