

# WHERE'S YOUR FAITH?

**Central Question:** *When Jesus returns, will He find faith on the earth?*

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** LUKE 18:1-8

## I. THE PROBLEM: A PRAYERLESS LIFE

- Key Scripture: Luke 18:1 "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"
- The Sobering Statistic: The average Christian spends less than five minutes a day in prayer.
- The Relationship Analogy:
  - What would your marriage be like if you only spoke to your spouse for five minutes a day?
  - What kind of relationship would you have with your children?
- The Root Cause: We are too busy and distracted. We haven't slowed down long enough to let God talk to us.

## II. THE PARABLE: THE PERSISTENT WIDOW AND THE UNJUST JUDGE

- The Characters:
  - The Unjust Judge: Feared not God, nor regarded man. He was a powerful official who was not motivated by righteousness or public opinion.
  - The Persistent Widow: A woman with no social power or means of support, seeking justice against her adversary.
- The Conflict: The widow continually comes to the judge, asking for justice ("Avenge me of my adversary").
- The Resolution: The judge, though unrighteous, grants her request simply to stop her from "wearying" him with her continual coming.
- Jesus's Point (The "How Much More" Principle):
  - Luke 18:7-8a: "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily."
  - If a corrupt, uncaring judge will grant a request because of persistence, how much more will a loving, righteous God respond to the persistent prayers of His children?

### III. THE APPLICATION: HOW TO CULTIVATE A LIFE OF FAITH AND PRAYER

- A. Don't Worry.
  - Worrying is telling God the problem is too big for Him.
  - It's a negative focus that hinders faith.
- B. Don't Quit.
  - Like the widow, we must keep pushing forward even when situations are difficult.
  - Keep your eyes on Jesus, not the circumstances.
  - The judge gave the widow what she wanted because she didn't quit.
- C. Don't Doubt.
  - Pray with a positive, expectant attitude.
  - Avoid negativity, which is a tool of the enemy to subtract from your life.
  - Concentrate on the positive and on what God is trying to add to your life.

### IV. UNDERSTANDING GOD'S ANSWERS

- God's timing is not our timing. He may answer...
  - Now
  - Later
  - No
  - With something better
- The "Unanswered Prayer" Principle: Sometimes, what we think we want is not what is good for us. A "no" from God can be a blessing in disguise, protecting us or leading us to something better.

### V. THE ULTIMATE QUESTION: WILL HE FIND FAITH?

- Key Scripture: Luke 18:8b "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"
- The Personal Challenge:
  - If Jesus came to your house today, would He find faith?
  - Have the storms of life caused you to quit knocking on His door?
  - Have you stopped communicating with Him?

- The Call to Relationship: The goal is not just to pray in a crisis, but to cultivate a continuous, two-way relationship with God. Christians aren't perfect, but they serve a perfect God who desires this relationship.

***Key Takeaway: Persistent, faith-filled prayer is not about nagging God into submission, but about aligning our hearts with His and refusing to give up on the relationship He desires to have with us. It is the evidence of a faith that trusts Him regardless of the circumstances.***

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- How much time do you dedicate to two-way communication with God each day?
- Is there an area in your life where you have "quit" praying?
- How can you shift your prayers from "worrying" to "worshipping"?
- When you face a "no" from God, how do you respond? Can you see it as a potential protection or redirection to something better?