

Why Pray?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 18:1-8.

B. Jesus uses a metaphor of a contact sport to explain prayer.

II. Three deliberate contrasts with prayer.

A. We must either pray or faint.

1. There is an inner weakness of heart.
2. There is a lack of appetite for life by many.
3. Science has become our god.
4. Beyond this cold universe exists the heart of the Father's arms, and we are to cry out to Him.

B. Jesus contrasts a helpless widow and an unrighteous judge. The widow won over the judge through her unrelenting persistence.

1. Perpetual prayer is the key to the activity of God.
2. Prayer always stirs the heart of God—God is not like the unrighteous judge who requires continual battering.
3. Prevailing prayer is unbiblical.
 - a. This is an attempt to blackmail God.
 - b. Prayer is forever the cry of a child to his or her father.
 - c. Prayer is immediately answered through God's comfort.

C. The contrast of practice.

1. The faithfulness of the Son of Man is sure, although the faithfulness of man is not.
2. Prayer rests not on the faithfulness of man, therefore—it rests on the sovereignty of God.
3. Jesus looks for faith, because prayer is faith expressed.
4. The purpose of prayer is to bring us to an understanding of the program and purpose of God.

Application questions:

1. How is prayer to be persistent?

2. How is prayer not to be persistent?

3. What is the main purpose of prayer? How can you energize your prayer life by reflecting on these truths?
