

STAYING IN FAITH

Jesus tells the disciples that men ought to always pray and not give up. We can have confidence that if we pray according to his will, we can have whatever we ask of God. We must have faith.

- A. “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18:1-2).**
 - a. The instruction from Jesus was that men ought to always pray
 - b. Men ought to not lose heart or give up, cave in, and quit.
 - c. The widow and the Unjust Judge (Luke 18:2-5)
 - i. She did not quit asking that judge to appease her.
 - ii. Christians must have that same kind of tenacity.
- B. Being prayerless and quitting is commonplace.**
 - a. The mere fact that Jesus is telling us that people ought to pray and not lose heart means that people do stop praying and lose heart.
 - i. Jesus asks a poignant question in Luke 18:8 (b), “Nevertheless when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”
 - b. What causes people to become prayerless and lose heart?
 - i. Fear, doubt, and unbelief
 - ii. Trials and tribulations of life
 - iii. Past negative outcomes or dashed expectations
- C. The Bible tells us many things about the importance of prayer.**
 - a. We are to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
 - b. We are to know that God hears us.
 - i. “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:14-15)
 - ii. We can have confidence that God hears our prayers
 - 1. Confidence is the belief that one can rely on someone or something; a firm trust.
 - 2. We can have confidence that God hears our prayers.
 - c. How to build your confidence in God hearing your prayer
 - i. Make sure your prayers line up with God’s word (His will).
 - ii. How to find God’s will
 - 1. We find God’s will in the Word of God
 - 2. We find God’s will as we ask God to reveal His will to us
 - 3. We find God’s will as we fellowship with God
 - d. Have faith in God to answer
 - i. Expect to receive what you have prayed for
 - ii. Faith pleases God (Hebrews 11: 6)
 - iii. We must believe that God is a rewarder for those who seek him.

