

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.

May 17, 2020

Parable of the Persistent Widow

1And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

This admonition of praying constantly is another command from Jesus. The problem of not continuing in prayer even though we seem not to receive an answer is that so many people will slowly give up in prayer thinking that God does not hear them.

Consider this, look through the Old Testament to the prophets and kings that loved God. They would pray for relief of some sort and sometimes years would go by with no answer; God at times is not quick to respond but when He does His response is Quick and sometime deadly to the adversary of His People.

2Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: 3And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

In this parable the woman represents the Jewish Nation or in our context the Church, who for a long period has been the focus of attacks by the enemy and those who hate God. The judge

represents God, both to Israel and in today's view the Church. During Jesus time many Jews thought God was not hearing them. Today what many Christians come to believe is that God does not hear their prayer and does not respond. They feel they have no voice with God.

4And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; 5Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

In this response mankind and fellow believers see Christians praying and see no reaction from God. He loves our prayers and holds them dear to himself. God could respond immediately but then He would not have the opportunity to deal with the enemy and bring about His Will in their lives as well. If He simply destroyed everyone and everything that assaulted His Church how many lost would be lost forever. He is a Patient and Loving God and has warned us of the coming tribulation ever since the Crucifixion we were told that the world would hate us.

There are times when God does react quickly often in healings and other miracles; it is His providence when and how He responds, and it is our duty to give thanks to the Lord God in all things. That is worship of God even when we don't feel like it.

**6And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.
7And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day
and night unto him, though he bear long with them.**

**8I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.
Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find
faith on the earth?**

Vs 8 reference to the term “speedily” refers not to how quickly God response to a prayer request but describes when He does respond it is with dynamic speed; it falls from heaven like a ton of bricks when the answer comes.

But Jesus reveals a concern He has in His heart that when He returns for His Church that He will find little faith.

If you have ever considered what is called Church Dispensation; a way of studying the first 3 chapters of Revelation by looking at it over time from the Crucifixion to today. Each Church is a period of time. Some were excellent in their faith to Christ but sadly most were not. There are seven Churches, equaling seven time periods throughout Church history. I have found that the same 7 Churches seem to follow in the life of a believer as well; from excitement and embracing every moment with God to a point when God seems so distant and the believer loses his or her feeling of connection; as if being in a desert place. It is those times of feeling alone God declares He is the strongest in our

lives and that we cannot fail to pray, expecting His answer in His time.

Considering where we are in this dispensational period if we look at the last three Churches in Revelation; Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea we may see all three in the churches of today. But true believers, those that rely on God alone are locked into the Philadelphia Church period.

Sardis was the third from the last church;

Revelation 3: Message to the Church in Sardis

1And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. ***2***Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. ***3***Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. ***4***Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ***5***He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ***6***He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The goal for believers of today is to move into the next church phase or personal walk with Christ.

Message to the Church in Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for ***thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.***

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. ***10*** Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, ***I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation,*** which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ***11*** Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. ***12*** Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. ***13*** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

But by all means possible we must avoid being stagnant, lukewarm in how we pray to God, we must seek the Gold that He has laid up for us. Our diligence in studying His Word is critical to our existence especially during these ever-increasing evil times.

Study His Word and Walk in His Commandments.

Message to the Church in Laodicea

(Colossians 2:1-5)

Revelation 3: 14And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15I know thy works, that **thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.****

Colossians 2: 1For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; 2That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. 5For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and **beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.**

Jesus had good reason to be concerned as He spoke these words in Luke 18:8

***8* I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**

We must endeavor be strong in our commitment to God, rely solely on Him for everything we need and continue to study His Word day and night, seeking Him in Prayer as we go to sleep and rise up.

As a rabbit trail let's consider Covid 19 with respect to God. God knew you before HE the laid the foundation of the earth.

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

God knows everything about your life before you were born and before you will die. I do not believe the Bible tells us that God has devised the means by which each of us will die but His foreknowledge He knows exact the instant of our death and the means by which we will die. Therefore, I do not believe God is sitting on His Throne in Heaven wringing His hands mumbling to Himself; "Wow, I just didn't see that Covid 19 thing coming!"

That is absurd, God knew exactly the road of sin and the devastating path that lay ahead for mankind, every event, every

hardship. It was not His choice it was ours and Satan can bring about a number of problems for mankind because of the original sin.

Covid 19 is part of that trail of misery due to the Original Sin, God is not surprised, nor taken aback. He knows and understands what we are faced with and it doesn't scare Him. It should not scare us either.

To be blunt we each need to examine our Faith in Christ, either our Faith in Christ is unconditional, or we have placed conditions on that Faith. In other words, I have Faith in Christ as long as He keeps me from getting Covid 19. If I get Covid 19 or anyone of a hundred other ailments that may or may not be life threatening, then my Faith is not in Christ it is in masks, social distancing, medicine and doctors and treatments. Either God is going to protect you from all things that end in death or He isn't. Most of us He has granted us a lifetime of protection; there will be a day when He says no and takes us home. I am pretty sure He tells us not to worry about it, go about His business and let Him figure all the other stuff out.

Should you turn down a known cure for a disease, not at all, but understand that God knows already what is going to kill each of us and the exact moment of our demise. So, take the treatment if

you chose to but still place your life in Christ's hands and let Him decide if He is going to heal you, let the medicine heal you or take you home if He is your Lord.

If Jesus is not your Lord then all of this talk is academic, you don't believe in Him and He has no sway in your life. You will still die, just without redemption. It is your choice, but know this, Jesus loves you and died for you so that you could place your life, your death and eternity in His Hands. Allow Him to choose for each of us how we approach that moment in life when it ends and we then either go to Him or to Hell, the destination is our only choice.

Covid 19 is not in charge of your destiny, you are. Doctors are not in charge of your life or death, you are. Death is not subject to what you want, death is inevitable for all of us, unless Rapture happens before that day of your death. We have one choice to make; Know Jesus, Know Peace or No Jesus, No Peace.

Matthew 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Matthew 6:27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Berean Bible

Phillipians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

The Pharisee and Tax Collector

9And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

If you were to be afflicted with either self-doubt or self-assurance which would you choose?

10Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that **exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**

These verses are self-explanatory. God seeks the humble and contrite not the boastful and prideful. The only thing to add is Gods own thoughts on the person who is boastful.

Romans 1: [28](#)And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; [29](#)Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, [30](#)Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, **proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31](#)Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: [32](#)Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them**

Jesus Blesses the Children

[\(Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16\)](#)

[15](#)And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when *his* disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them.

According to Strong's Concordance, the term for "infants" can mean a baby or an unborn child. Interesting that the same term is used?

Transliteration: brephos

Phonetic Spelling: (bref-os)

Definition: an unborn or a newborn child

Usage: infant, babe, child in arms.

The disciples were at odds with their master once again, this time over their belief that children were the result of marriage. They were pretty sure that Jesus had extolled the virtues of not

marrying so as to be free from incumbrancers. They obviously reasoned that if Jesus felt that way about marriage then He would obviously not want to be bother with the offspring of a married couple. I cannot judge the disciples because I am pretty sure if I was in their shoes, I would have done much worse.

16But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 17Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

The key to this verse is “as a child” not childish. We must be serious about our salvation but accept it without guile or pretense like a child believes their parents, we are to believe our Salvation and the Salvation giver.

Speaking of guile, we come next to the rich young ruler who has a question for Jesus; when we ask a question of Jesus or God or the Holy Spirit don't think for a moment that they do not already know our heart. We cannot deceive them; the God Head is omniscient and omni powerful and omni present. Before we ask God for anything except of course in an instant emergency we should speak with our heart to see if there is any fake desire there. Are we asking so as to look spiritual to others, are we asking for selfish reasons, our heart is the switchboard that

communicates with the Spirit? If we send out a fake call, the Spirit knows before we even utter a syllable either in our heart or with our lips. God is looking for a pure heart.

1 Timothy 1: [4](#)Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. [5](#)Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

[\(Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31\)](#)

[18](#)And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? [19](#)And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, *that is, God.*

According to Bible Scholars students never called their teacher good as that title was reserved solely for Yahweh. Jesus being a student Himself from a young age recognized that and questioned this young wealthy man about the term.

Getting that cleared up, Jesus then describes several commandments required to be kept.

[20](#)Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. [21](#)And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

The first sign of a problem is for anyone to believe they are sinless. It is perhaps the biggest obstacle to becoming born again.

If we can't admit that we are sinners and in need of salvation what then can move our heart to ask Jesus in?

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

22Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Is that the real issue is possessions? Not really, it is as God declares, money or possessions are not necessarily evil it is the love of money that is evil and along with that comes the love of possessions.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

This young rich man is the epitome of that issue of where your love is.

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

23And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. 24And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 25For it is easier

for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

We get the imagery here in a rich person trying to struggle through the eye of a needle. This verse is not without debate; some hold it as a mis translation in Hebrew in which “rope” and “camel” are spelled almost the same but are identical in spoken Hebrew. It would be the context then that would determine if it were a rope or a camel. Another part of the debate is; was there ever a gate called “the eye of the needle”. In colloquial terms of this day that Jesus was speaking most cities had surrounding walls with large gate as did Jerusalem. Built within the larger gate was a smaller “man door” for lack of a better term. It was a defensive measure; rather than leaving the large defensive gate open all night the smaller gate was used at night. The gate was of such structure that a fully loaded camel could not enter, so the camel had to be unloaded and then it could enter. Therein lies the idea that it was quite impossible for a loaded camel to enter through that smaller gate. Therein may lay the spiritual significance of Jesus’ answer. Just like the camel and rich person would have to be unloaded of all their baggage before they could enter into the Kingdom of God. Let go of the material stuff and cling to the Spiritual things.

**26And they that heard *it* said, Who then can be saved?
27And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.**

When man tries to figure out a way to get through the gate, it is usually with all his baggage. Jesus is saying that man's way will not work, only God's way will work.

28Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. 29And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, 30Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

The disciples had been examples of leaving behind all that they had in order to follow Jesus. We must do the same thing in our hearts. We still walk out life where God has put us and if He calls us to darkest Africa (not sure what that means) then we set aside all our belongings and go. If He chooses to use us here then we live in the houses He has given us, on the land that is His, and receive retirement pay from jobs that He blessed us with. It is all His, we are just caretakers so don't get too attached to any of it.

In the next 4 verses Jesus will tell His disciples the particulars of His last days on earth as a man. He was incredibly clear as to what awaited Him in Jerusalem, but the Word declares they just did not understand.

31 Then he took *unto him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. **32** For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: **33** And they shall scourge *him*, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. **34** And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

([Matthew 20:29-34](#); [Mark 10:46-52](#))

Jericho is about 18 miles north east from Jerusalem and was a sort of a spa city thanks to Herod. It was surrounded by groves of trees and was supposedly a beautiful oasis. Jericho sits almost due north of Sea of Galilee. So Jesus is coming from the north east toward Jerusalem and is passing through Jericho.

35 And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: **36** And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

This route Jesus was on was a major route for people going toward Jerusalem by way of Jericho. It was common practice for those afflicted to sit along the road and beg. This blind man could not see who was coming but quite a commotion accompanied whoever it was, so he asked.

37And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

Even for a blind man sitting on the side of the road in Jericho the word had spread about Jesus of Nazareth and the miracles that accompanied Him.

38And he cried, saying, Jesus, *thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.

This blind man was in a sense all alone, no one to help him so all he could do was yell in Jesus's direction and ask for mercy and in that request healing.

39And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, *Thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.

It is interesting that anyone would try to inhibit a person that was afflicted with blindness; but those who were walking with or in front of Jesus did that. The man must have been making quite a commotion to get their attention. This blind man also alludes to the understanding that Jesus was of the Kingly line of King David.

40And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, 41Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. 42And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. 43And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw *it*, gave praise unto God.

Again, we see the role of Faith in this healing. How many times has Jesus alluded to that issue of Faith? It is critical in our walk with Christ, it must be exercised in order to grow. Faith in what though? Faith in Christ, He is the Messiah, He is the Healer.

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