



Luke 18

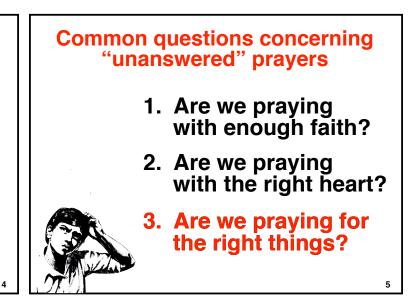
"1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and **not to lose heart**, 2 saying, "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God, and did not respect man. 3 And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 And for a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out.' 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?""

This clearly teaches:

- 1. It helps to "nag" God.
- 2. God answers prayers quickly.



Yes, but why doesn't it seem to work that way?



Observations on Lk.18:1-8

- The judge is not a "fixer" nor is he compassionate but is only motivated to get the widow off his back.
- Widows like orphans were outside the cultural system and very vulnerable (like"refugees" today).
- The issue is "legal protection" or getting an "adversary" off the widow's back.

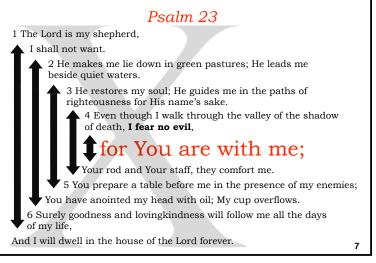
vs.3 "Give me legal protection from my opponent."

1 Peter 5:8 "Your **adversary**, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

- The implication is that persistent prayer to God will bring hope (freedom from fear) and peace.
 - vs.1 "pray and not to lose heart"

vs.8 "However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

A window into the soul of man and God.



"4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."



✓ The "rod" was a weapon used to fend off predators from without.

✓ The "staff" was used to correct and lead the sheep - protecting them from within.

The "fall of Adam" introduces death to the human soul.

Genesis 3

"₈ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife **hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God** among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was **afraid** because I was **naked**; so I **hid** myself.""

Death brings fear, vulnerability, and self-defensive strategies.

Some toxic defensive strategies

- ✓ Need to control minimize the unknowns
- ✓ Need for closure get it settled ASAP
- ✓ Black and white gray areas are unsettled
- ✓ Resisting change low risk tolerance
- ✓ Worry / whine things will or have gone bad
- ✓ Conspiracies organized doom
- ✓ Low creativity avoid risk of failure
- ✓ Cup is half full bad things will happen
- ✓ Social withdrawal depression, illness

1 John 4:18

"There is no fear in love, but perfect **love casts out fear**,"

Death is what we fear. Love is what we seek.

Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**," which translated means, "**God with us**."

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Satan does not want to take away our faith, hope, & love.

He just wants to use fear to displace the objects and subjects of our faith, hope & love.



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Examples - Gen.3 and Matt.4

We have both an Accuser and an Advocate.

Revelation 12:8

"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren** has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night."

John 14

"16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Helper** (Advocate), that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."



παρακλητος (parakletos)

"one who comes alongside to help"

Translated as:

"Helper" "Teacher" "Advocate" "Mediator" "Comforter" "Encourager"

Never translated as "circumstance changer"

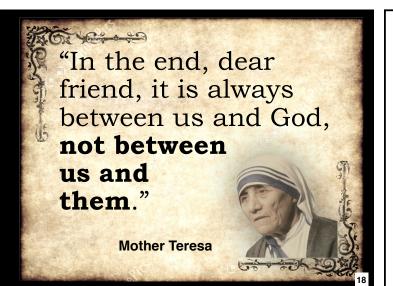
John 14

"25 These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper (Advocate), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."



The Holy Spirit's primary ministry is that of an advocate, comforter, equipper, teacher, reminder.

The Holy Spirit's role is not to alter our environment but to make us salt and light in it.



Prayer crib sheet Three prayers - Help, Thanks, Wow

Help

1. What kind of HELP from God DO I expect?

Change my circumstances - so they will be more like heaven than hell.

Change you - so you won't make your life and my life miserable.

Change my influence - so I can change this world.

<text>

Help

2. What kind of HELP from God SHOULD I expect?

To respond to my Calling - to be salt and light in a dying and dark world.

To respond to Christ's Spirit - (spiritual life trainer / coach) reminder, encourager, teacher (study the manual).

To respond to life's challenges with proper expectations, priorities, perspective, perseverance, patience.

Help

3. Resist the accuser's big weapons Pain - the spiritual "red light" that

Pain - the spiritual "red light" that drives me to the light or away from it to:

Anxiety - the sense of being, uncared for, forgotten, alone, and insignificant.

Anger - (guilt toward self, bitterness toward others) that sucks up all the air in our souls and blinds me to truth.

4. When I can't do anything else - Just pray "help", "open my eyes", show me the way", "renew my mind", "replace my fears with hope".

Ephesians 1

"18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be **enlightened**, so that you may know what is

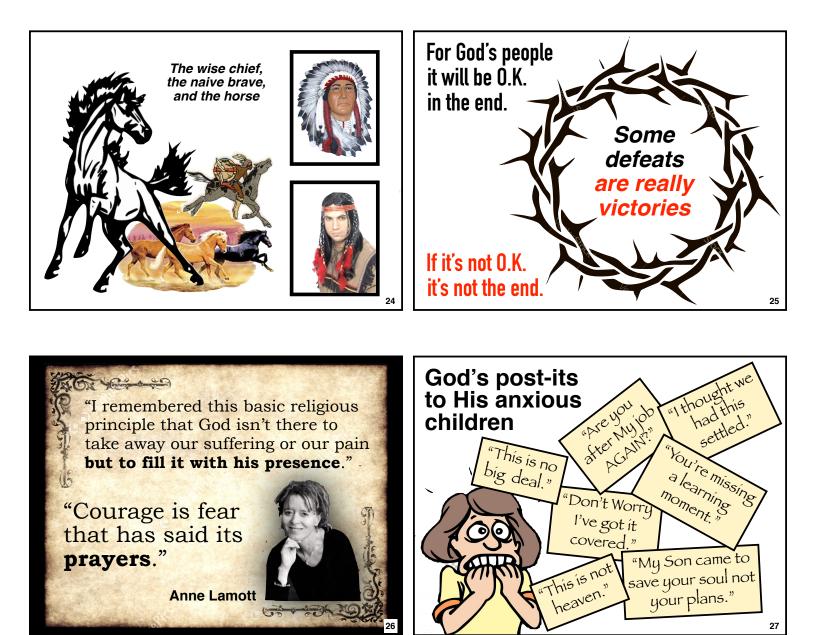
(1) the hope of His calling,

(2) what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

(3) 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

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A "quiet time"

Time alone with the Paraclete (Spirit of Christ) is necessary in combating the loneliness of life.

It is the place where God can remind us of the truth, renew our mind, and reassure our soul in preparation for the challenges we face.

