



Stepping Stones

Luke 18:1-8 New Revised Standard Version

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Notes: _____



"Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of Himself." –Mother Teresa

"I can't do it." "It's too hard." "I tried, but it's not working." How many times have you and I heard (and probably made) some of those declarations? For some reason, we presume that success is supposed to come with doing something only once. Why? Because we want it now, pain free, and without complications. If at first we don't succeed, we find it easier to quit.

That is certainly not the mentality for the woman in today's text. While we don't know the details of her predicament, we discover a drive within her that simply wouldn't quit. That's how Jesus says our prayer lives are to be: unwavering. However, we often think of prayer as "God already knowing everything" or "I prayed about it (once) and now it's up to God." However, as with many things, we miss out on great rewards when we stop too quickly.

Fortunately, God, unlike the judge in today's text, doesn't tire of hearing from God's children and longs for our earnest prayers.

- 1. Hearing from us isn't bothersome to God.**
- 2. Sometimes, in praying, we give up too quickly.**
- 3. Don't stop if what you desire doesn't happen.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, help me discover the power that comes through persistent prayer. Amen.