

# The Bulletin

## Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834  
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:  
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May 1, 2022

### **“Don't Quit Praying!”**

By Jacob Hudgins



Jesus knows us. He knows our weaknesses and tendencies. He knows our strengths and successes. A warning from the mouth of one who knows us so well should carry much weight. So what does Jesus warn us about in times when we "lose heart"? *"Men ought always to pray and not lose heart"* (Luke 18:1). Don't quit praying! Jesus tells a parable to illustrate the principle (Luke 18:2-5). A widow requests justice from a judge, who for a while refuses to act. However, the widow's persistence finally leads him to avenge her "lest by her continual coming she weary me" ( Luke 18:5). We must learn the lesson well from this determined widow: don't quit praying!

#### **(1) Don't quit praying because God hears.**

Often our discouragement stems from a feeling of inadequacy in our prayer: God hasn't helped me, and I'm not even sure my prayers go higher than the ceiling. Never forget that as long as we are living as we should (1 Pet 3:12), God hears our prayers!

There is no question this judge heard the widow's request-the text says he simply "would not for a while" ( v. 4) do what she asked. Further, when Jesus applies this parable to our prayers to God, He asks, *"And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"*

God always hears the cries and requests of His children! Though we may think God has forgotten about us when our prayers are not immediately answered the way we'd like, we must never lose heart! God speaks directly to such a mindset and says "men ought always to pray and not lose heart" (v. 1)! Don't quit praying; God hears!

#### **(2) Don't quit praying because God rewards persistence!**

What finally got the judge to act? *"yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me"* (v. 5).

The continual, persistent asking of this widow got her what she desired. Can the same be said of our prayers? Her persistence made this woman more powerful and influential than the greatest of men, whom the judge had no regard for (v. 2, 4). Making the application, Jesus speaks of the elect of God *"who cry out day and night to Him"* (v. 7), adding that as a result God *"will avenge them speedily"* (v. 8).

An earlier parable of Jesus tells of a man going to his friend at midnight to ask for food, and only receiving it because of his continued asking. Of that man, Jesus says, *"I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs"* (Luke 11:8).

Like the characters in these parables, God rewards persistence in prayer! Please understand that God is not saying that we can nag Him into giving us whatever our heart desires. Rather, when we genuinely need something and continually trust that He is the way to receive it, He is more likely to give it to us. If we ask for something from God once, then forget about it, do we really need it or truly trust He will provide it?

Remember, *"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"* (James 5:16), but the occasional, haphazard prayer of a lukewarm man accomplishes little. Don't quit praying! God rewards persistence!

### **(3) Don't quit praying because God desires faith.**

Isn't it faith that buoys us through the times when we lose heart and strengthens us to keep looking to the Father? Despite the fact that our prayers might not be answered--or answered in a way we prefer--can we keep asking and trusting?

Jesus, having told the parable, laments, *"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8). Faith is God's desire. When cancer has taken our loved one, can we pray that God will heal someone else with cancer, truly believing He can and will? When we have failed in temptation so many times, can we ask Him for help and forgiveness, truly believing we can overcome with His help? When life is hard, when money is tight, when people are angry, when we can't see our way, do we trust and look to our God? *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him"* (Heb 11:6). God knows about all that life contains, but still desires us to trust Him! Take your problems to the Lord... *"casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you"* (1 Pet 5:7). Whatever you do, don't quit praying! God wants you to believe!

Remember that stubborn widow--a character Jesus used to illustrate our stubborn devotion and trust to God. A dogged determination to appeal to our Father will be rewarded. Jesus knows us better than anyone, and His prescription is more prayer. Don't lose heart! Don't quit praying!

## **"HE HATH NOT GOD"**

By A. C. Grider

**2 John 9** *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."*

The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is given to us as a guide from earth to heaven. It serves as something of a "road map" or a "way bill" to glory. We should be at least as careful in an attempt to follow it as we would be a road map to some place on this earth. Couldn't you imagine the confusion and frustration of a man trying to follow a road map to some place that was not on the map? What about a man starting from some place that he could not find on the map? He starts out and finally hits a little stretch of highway that he can find, and then suddenly he is again traveling a road which the map does not show.

The picture above, when we make a spiritual application of it, exactly describes a member of a denomination. Think with me a minute, if you will.

A man does something he cannot read in the New Testament to be saved (as he imagines). Then he joins a denomination, which is something else he cannot find in God's word. He finds in the New Testament that he should sing. He sings, but adds mechanical music to his singing. He reads that he should eat the Lord's Supper and he does, but not every first day of the week, but when he wants to do so. He prays, but may have women leading public prayer~ and he teaches an alien sinner that he should pray for salvation. He gives of his means but he may do so through pie suppers, raffles, etc. He does missionary work but does it through some missionary society. He has a good benevolent program but most of the work is done by human societies. In fact, he does NOTHING as the Bible teaches.

It can be seen that the man I am describing is not following the Bible. He has transgressed the doctrine of Christ on every point. He has gone onward and has not abided in the doctrine. He hath not God! It is a pity but it is so.

We cannot help this man by ignoring him or by ignoring the fact that he is transgressing God's word. Let's tell him. We may save his soul. We will at least, deliver our own soul.

[Truth Magazine, XV:23 (April 15, 1971), p. 11]



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And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Nannette Chancellor, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Wesley Trimble, Greyson Reynolds (Nellie's classmate), Janis Johnson (Savannah), and Robert Howard (Doug and Pat's son in law).

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Opening Prayer:</b>                 | Tim Harris Sr.               |
| <b>Preaching:</b>                      | Brian Meade                  |
| <b>Sermon #1:</b>                      | <i>"What We Ought To Do"</i> |
| <b>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</b> | Fred Johnson                 |
|  | Galatians (Randy Blackaby)   |
|  | <i>Page #31, Question #5</i> |

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

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| <b>Announcements:</b>                          | Russell Briggs                         |
| <b>Opening Prayer &amp; Scripture Reading:</b> | Doug George                            |
|  | <i>Daniel 3:16-18</i>                  |
| <b>Song Leader:</b>                            | Lee Busby                              |
| <b>Lord's Supper:</b>                          | Danny Sheffield                        |
| <b>Assisting:</b>                              | — —                                    |
| <b>Preaching:</b>                              | Brian Meade                            |
| <b>Sermon #2:</b>                              | <i>"Our Help Through Fiery Trials"</i> |
| <b>Closing Prayer:</b>                         | Paul Johnson                           |

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**May 4th:**

|                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Auditorium Bible Class:</b>       | Paul Johnson                |
| <b>Workbook:</b>                     | Jeremiah & Lamentations     |
|                                      | (John Humphries)            |
| <b>Starting Page &amp; Question:</b> | Page 20, <i>Question #1</i> |
| <b>Invitation:</b>                   | Paul Busby                  |
| <b>Song Leader:</b>                  | Russell Briggs              |
| <b>Closing Prayer:</b>               | Blake Briggs                |

## **“What We Ought To Do”**

Lesson Text: **Matthew 25:24-27.**

**Definition Of Ought:** 1. used to indicate duty, obligation, or correctness.  
2. used to indicate a desirable or expected state.

### **I. Some Ought Not's:**

- **Mark 13:14.** *“Standing Where it ought not...”* (Out of place—Sign).
- **Luke 24:26.** *“Ought Not Christ...”* (Rhetorical question to a proper conclusion).
- **Acts 17:29.** *“Ought not to think...”* (Proper thinking leading away from idolatry).
- **1 Timothy 5:13.** *“Saying things which they ought not.”* (Improper speech/words).
- **Titus 1:11.** *“Teaching things they ought not,”* (False teaching that subverts).
- **James 3:8-10.** *“These things ought no to be so.”* (Proper control of the tongue).

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### **II. What We Ought To Do:**

- **John 4:20-24.** *“... where one ought to worship.”* (Proper worship must be offered).
- **John 13:14.** *“You also ought to wash one another's feet.”* (Follow example of service).
- **Matthew 23:23.** *“These you ought to have done...”* (Obedience Is Not Selective).
- **Acts 5:29.** *“We ought to obey God rather than men.”* (When in Conflict— God!).
- **Luke 18:1.** *“Always ought to pray and not lose heart.”* (Emphasis on HOW).
- **Romans 12:3.** *“Not to think more highly than he ought to think.”* (Proper Position).
- **Romans 15:1.** *“We who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses....”* (Obligation).
- **Ephesians 6:20; Colossians 4:6.** *“As I ought to speak.”* (Proper Speech).
- **1 Thess. 4:1; 1 John 2:6.** *“How you ought to walk.”* (Proper Walk; Conduct).
- **1 John 4:11; 3:16.** *“We also ought to love one another.”* (Love Demanded/Defined).
- **Ephesians 5:28.** *“So husbands ought to love their own wives...”* (How & why)

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# **“Our Help Through Fiery Trials”**

## **Lesson Text: Daniel 3:1-7.**

- The Bible uses the word “fire” to describe the trial of our faith:  
**1 Peter 4:12; 1 Corinthians 3:13; 1 Peter 1:7.**
- Fiery Trials reveal:
  1. What it says about our faith.
  2. What it says about our God.

## **I. That God Is Still God, Even When We Go Through Fiery Trials.**

- **Daniel 3:8-13.**
- Why do fiery trials come? Why for these three Hebrew men?  
**Exodus 20:1-5.** God had already commanded not to bow down...
- What did this reveal about their faith and convictions?
- Was God Only God to them In Good Times Only.... In the Promised Land?
- Nebuchadnezzar had already changed their names (**1:6-7**), took God’s name out of their names.... But not their allegiance to Him!
- **Daniel 3:14-17.** The King tests them again with another chance!
- Application For Us Today:
  - ~ Is God Only God To Us In The Church Building? Do We Only Worship Here?
  - ~ Only in Good Times, Happiness, or Joy? Or In Our Fiery Trials Today?

## **II. That God Is Still A God Who Can Deliver Us From Trials.**

- **Daniel 3:15-17.** God Has The Power!
- **Job 42:2; Jeremiah 32:17; Genesis 18:14; Luke 1:37.**
- **Daniel 3:18-27.**
- God Has, At Times, Given Assurance Of The Outcome:  
**Joshua 1:1-5; Judges 7:7; Acts 27:23-24.**
- But No Assurances Given To Them: **Vs. 17-18.** Yet, **Hebrews 11:33-34.**
- 1942, The “Miracle at Dunkirk.”
- Application For Us Today:
  - ~ We Have No Assurance Of God Delivering Us From The Fiery Trials, Yet We Pray!
  - ~ “But Whatever God Doesn’t Deliver Us From, He Will Go With Us Through.”

## **III. That God Is A God, Who Will Go With You Through The Trials.**

- **Daniel 3:23-25.**
- Many Wonder Who The Other Person Was With The Three. (Angel or Jesus?).
- We Are Never Closer To God Than When We Are Going Through Fiery Trials!  
Why? Because We Are Depending On Him Fully!
- God’s Side: **Jeremiah 1:8; Haggai 2:4; John 14:17; John 16:32.**
- Through Our Fiery Trials: **1 Cor. 10:13; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Timothy 4:14-18.**

## **Conclusion: Daniel 3:28-30.**

Our Fiery Trials Reveal God’s Character! To God’s Glory!