

S E P T E M B E R 2 5 2 0 2 1



'Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.'

Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

Thought for today...

"Prayer changes things." I cannot recount the number of times I have heard people say this in past years. Truthfully, on occasion I have been tempted to retort "For you maybe", or ask "Does it?"

Perhaps like me, there have been times when you have repeatedly prayed about a situation, but having not seen any results, you have allowed your thoughts to give way to cynicism, doubt or unbelief, despite being a follower of Christ.

It may be tempting to give up on prayer if we do not quickly see the results that we desire, but the Apostle Paul gives the advice that we should **'pray without ceasing.'** 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV) and further, to: **'Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.'** Ephesians 6:18 (New Living Translation).



Paul offers us additional encouragement: **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."** Philippians 4:6 (NIV).

I know firsthand that God our Father hears and answers our prayers...

In a year in which job losses have been rife and it has been particularly challenging to make ends meet, I have (in the past month), witnessed Him provide a fabulous car for one, plus great new jobs for 3 other of my friends and family.

The Bible gives an account of how Daniel came to be thrown into a den of lions. King Darius' officers and advisors encouraged him to make and enforce a law, stipulating that any person praying to anyone but him would be thrown into the lions' den. Rather than shrug his shoulders and declare that nothing could be done to change the situation, we read: **'But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.'** Daniel 6:10 (NLT).

What faith! Daniel was aware that the consequences of his actions would see him thrown into the lions' den, but nonetheless trusted that His God - the God to whom he prayed and was confident would answer - would send His angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt him. We read that **'Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.'** Daniel 6:23 (NKJV).

Although we would wish it to be otherwise, there will be times when rather than save us from it, God will protect us whilst we are in the lions' den.



You may be a follower of Christ who - when confidently reminded that 'prayer changes things' by those who have seen God answer prayer time and time again - is tempted to respond "For you maybe", or ask "Does it?", but with nothing to lose and everything to gain, I dare you, go on - pray, because it **will** change things!