

Week 14  
88/277

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... men always ought to pray ...”**  
*Luke 18:1*

The implications of this statement are all too clear, and there are two. One implication is that prayer is important. The second implication is that men don't always do what they ought to do. The context of the passage of Scripture in which this verse is found has to do with being granted one's request by means of personal determination.

While it is true that our personal determination is subject to God's sovereign will, at times they are mutually inclusive. As a matter of fact, it is our privilege and responsibility to make our requests known to God. The only time God's will and our will are mutually exclusive is when the Scripture clearly says we must do or be something we don't want to do or be, and when we are not to do or be something that we want to do or be (you get the picture). Otherwise, the length of time and frequency spent lifting our petitions to God serve to intensify and verify the level of determination with which we make our request made known to God.

I believe it was Edmund Burke who said, “All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.” Political context notwithstanding, this is a statement that underscores spiritual discipline and warfare. God's Word decisively and concisely says that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church (Matthew 16:18). Was Jesus referring to inanimate buildings sprawling across a massive campus? No. The church is you and me. Christ was referring to the fervent prayers and service of His bride, the people of God. Therefore, even though the battle belongs to the Lord, He has chosen to work through the service, ministry and prayers of the individual believers gathered together locally to form a church (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Are you willing to let Christ work through you? Do you regularly attend church (are you a member of a local church)? When is the last time you verbally shared the gospel with someone? When is the last time you volunteered to serve food, clothes, medical supplies, or read a book, played a game, given a ride, etc.? There may be legitimate reasons why you can't or don't serve physically or on location, but what about praying? As we are aware of the coming of the day of the Lord, and as we daily see the signs of its imminent manifestation, remember, men always ought to pray.