

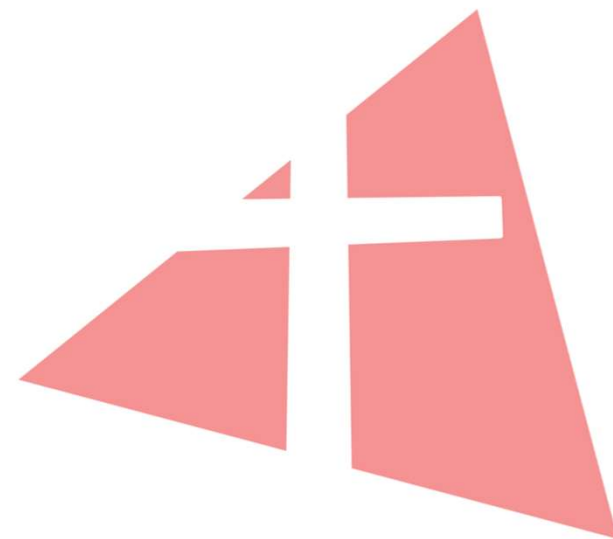
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

February 16th 2020



OUR SERIES

○ Prayer

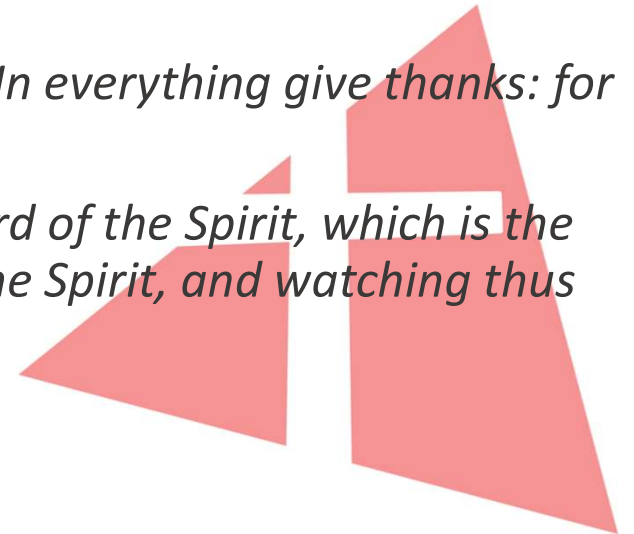


A CONTRADICTION?

- Nagging doesn't work
- The NT tells us to be persistent in prayer

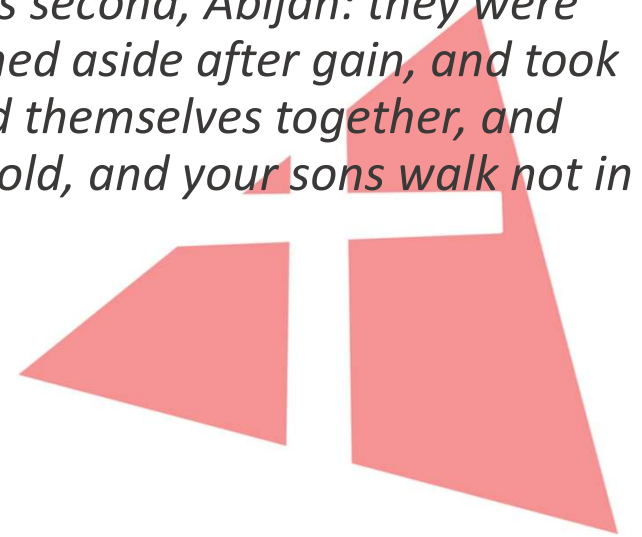
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Ephesians 6:17-18 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thus with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;



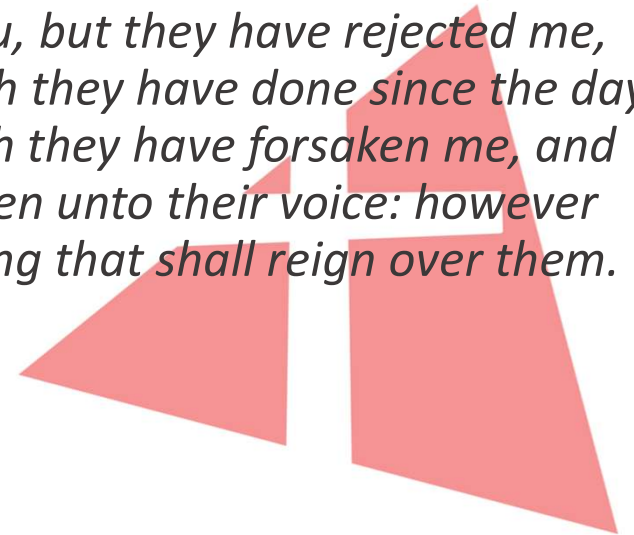
WHEN PRAYER WENT WRONG

1 Samuel 8:1-5 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abijah: they were judges in Beersheba. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after gain, and took bribes, and perverted justice. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, you are old, and your sons walk not in your ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.



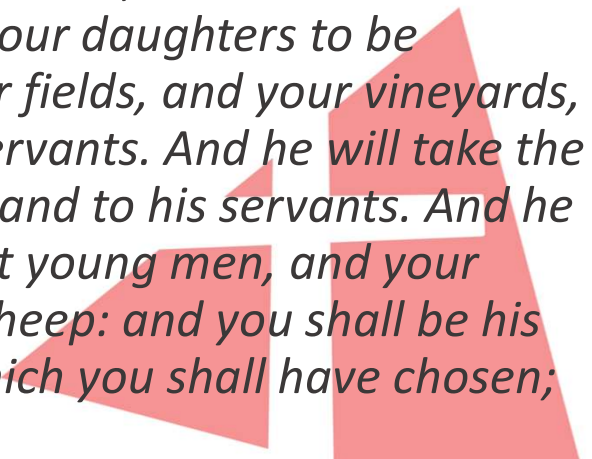
WHEN PRAYER WENT WRONG

1 Samuel 8:6-9 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto you: for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, with which they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto you. Now therefore hearken unto their voice: however protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.



WHEN PRAYER WENT WRONG

1 Samuel 8:10-18 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint himself captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his weapons of war, and equipment for his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be perfumers, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your grain, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and you shall be his servants. And you shall cry out in that day because of your king which you shall have chosen; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.



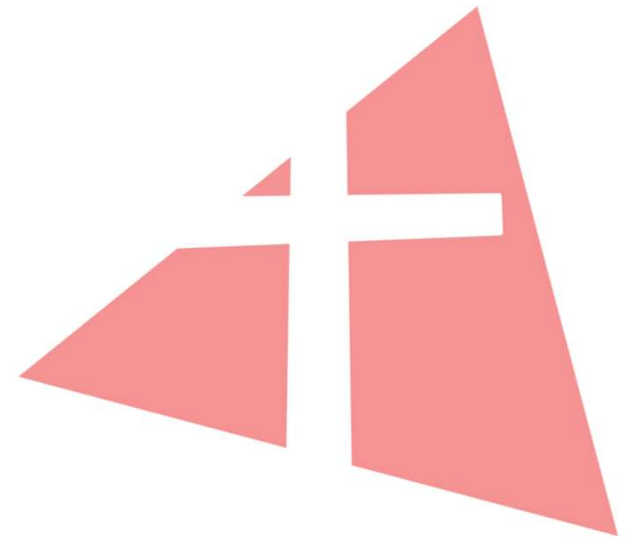
WHEN PRAYER WENT WRONG

1 Samuel 8:19-22 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go you every man unto his city.



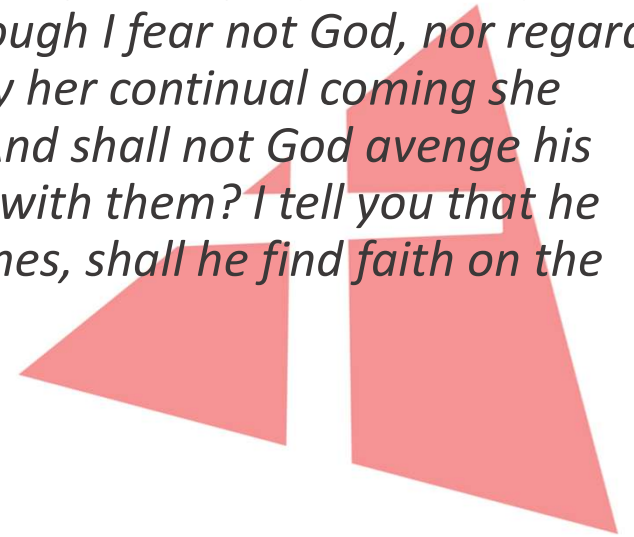
LESSONS WE CAN LEARN

- **Not every prayer is a good prayer**
- **If we nag, we might get exactly what we asked for**
 - And we'll have to live with the consequences



THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

Luke 18:1-8 And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, who feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of my adversary. And he would not for awhile: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she wearies me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall not God avenge his own elect, who cry day and night unto him, though he bears long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?



THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

Luke 18:1 And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;



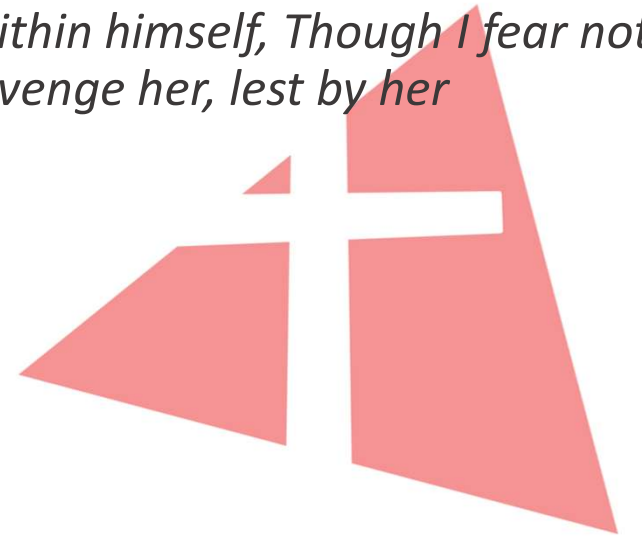
THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

Luke 18:2-3 Saying, There was in a city a judge, who feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of my adversary.



THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

Luke 18:4-5 And he would not for awhile: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she wearies me.

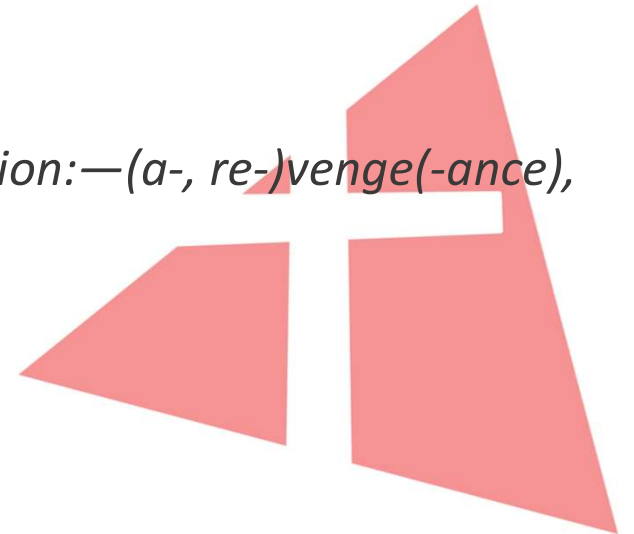


THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

Luke 18:6-7 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall not God avenge his own elect, who cry day and night unto him, though he bears long with them?

Avenge:

εκδικησις ekdikesis ek-dik'-ay-sis from 1556; vindication, retribution:—(a-, re-)venge(-ance), punishment.

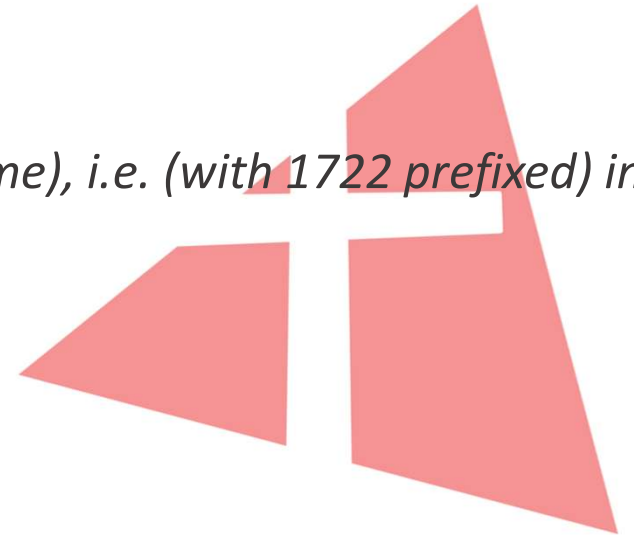


THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?

Speedily

ταχος tachos takh'-os from the same as 5036; a brief space (of time), i.e. (with 1722 prefixed) in haste:—+ quickly, + shortly, + speedily.



THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

- God wants us to pray without ceasing for His justice to be established.

Luke 18:1 And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;



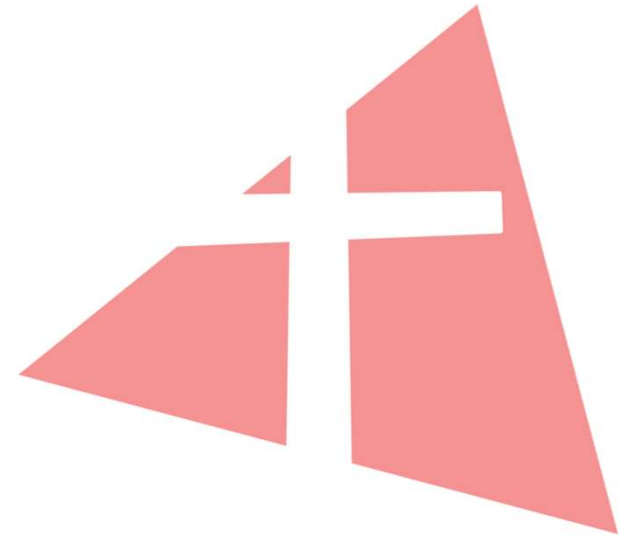
WHEN TO NAG

- We are supposed to “pray without ceasing” when we pray God’s will
- “Nagging” against God’s will is not effective and can have pretty bad consequences



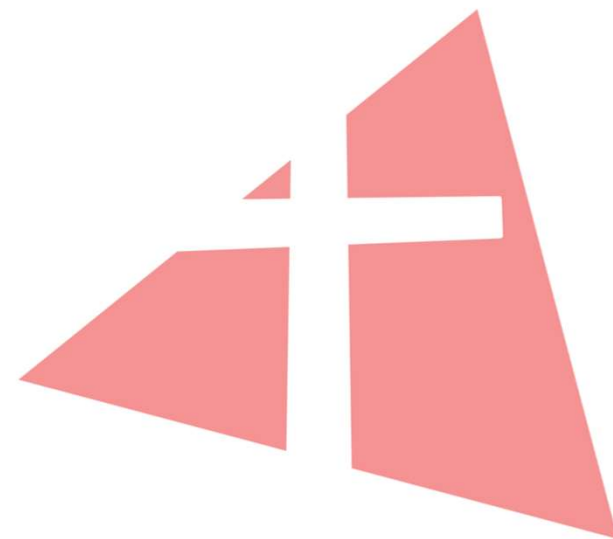
WHO DECIDES?

- God decides what God's will is



HOW TO KNOW?

- **Knowing your Bible**
- **Listening in prayer**



IN CONCLUSION

- Discern God's will
- Then persist in praying God's will, until it happens

