Prayer: Connecting with God
Why Should We Pray?

Luke 18:1-8 (ESV)

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.' " 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Parable of Contrasts

Contrast of Principles (18:1)

- Pray versus _____

- "Is that true?"

- Our culture's defense: _____

Contrast in People (18:2-7)

- God versus the unjust _____

- Us versus the _____

Contrast in Practices (18:8)

- How will you respond?

How to Become a Christian

Many people believe they are Christians because they were born in a Christian culture, go to church regularly, try to do their best, or live a good life. However, the Bible teaches that these things cannot make you a Christian. You become a Christian by simply taking these two steps:

- Acknowledge that you (along with all people) have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. Romans 3:23

- Personally believe that Jesus Christ, who was God in

  human flesh, died for your sins on the cross and rose again. 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

You may express your belief through prayer, asking Jesus to come into your life, and receiving Him as God's gift to you. John 1:12, Romans 6:23, Revelation 3:20

Ephesians 2:8, 9 (NIV) *For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast.*