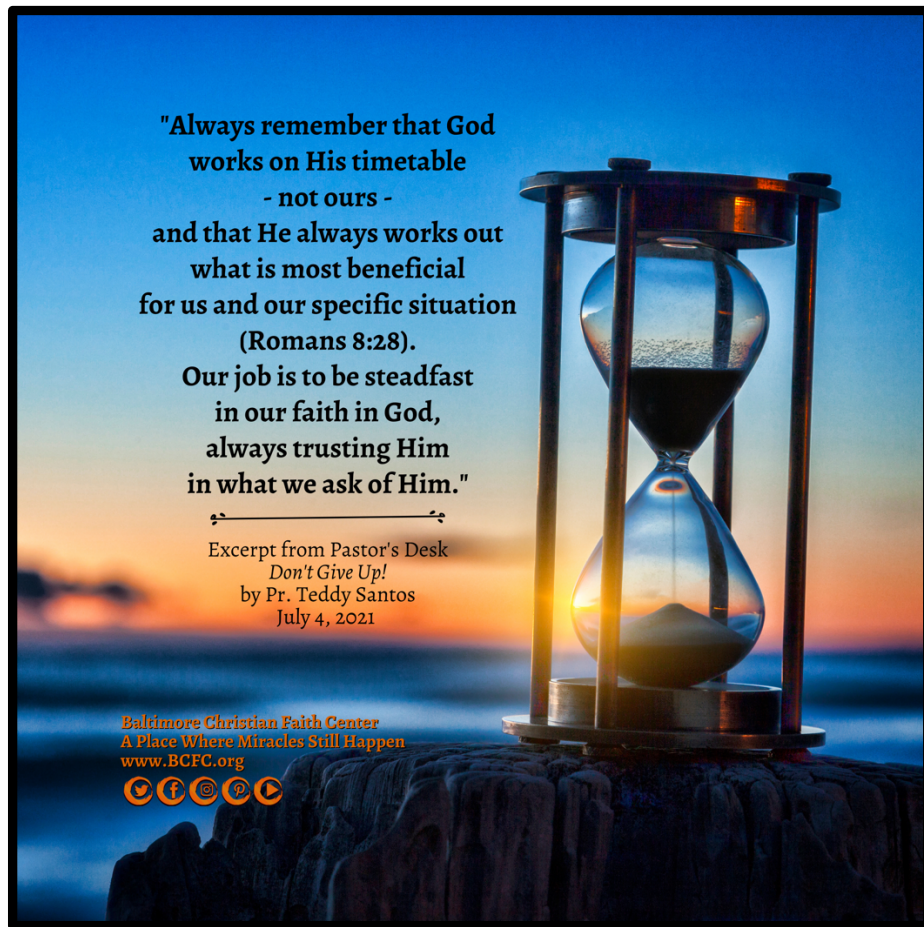


# DON'T GIVE UP!

Pastor's Desk – July 4, 2021



**Luke 18:4-8** *"(4)...but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, (5) yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" (6) Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. (7) And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? (8) I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"*

The Parable of the Persistent Widow is found here in **Luke 18**, starting in verses 1 through 8. Luke introduces Jesus' narrative of the story of this widow, annoying the unjust judge - with the remark that the Lord gave this parable precisely to encourage individuals *"to pray and not lose heart."* (verse 1).

The primary point of this passage deals with this question: Will a person ultimately cave in, be downcast and discouraged, because of the challenges, trials, and struggles they face throughout their Christian life, forsaking all the truth and opportunities God has given them?

The Lord's parable teaches us that we must continue praying and not becoming disheartened should our prayers not be answered immediately. Understanding that if a petition is not bestowed quickly, it is possible that God may be testing us, or teaching us patience, or working out a plan that we cannot see. Always remember that God works on His timetable - not ours - and that He always works out what is most beneficial for us and our specific situation (**Romans 8:28**). Our job is to be steadfast in our faith in God, always trusting Him in what we ask of Him.

If a reader is not careful, they could conclude that God is comparable to the unjust judge; meaning, that God will not answer our prayers punctually unless we bother Him constantly with pleas for help. Really, the Lord Jesus is differing the faithfulness of our loving Father to the self-serving, cynical, unrighteous judge.

Here is the point: if this judge - who couldn't care less for the widow - reacted to her cry only to free himself of her aggravating requests, then will not God - who cherishes His creation immensely - answer our prayers when we are under affliction or in need?

Don't give up! Our Lord Jesus is trying to get us to realize God's endless love and faithfulness to us. God is always willing to listen to us and acknowledge our prayers if per His perfect will. He always hears the cries of His people. You are His! God will defend you. God will protect you!

At His service,  
Pr. Teddy Santos