

## Laying Hold of Heaven

Review: Gates of Heaven

We are gates (temple of God) to an open heaven.

God sends fire from heaven on our sacrifice of prayer.

We don't earn an open heaven through prayer, we have an open heaven through Jesus.

Yet somehow prayer is essential to accessing it.

(Lk 18:1-8) <sup>1</sup>Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, implied: time, discouragement

<sup>2</sup>saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. <sup>3</sup>"Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'

<sup>4</sup>"And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, <sup>5</sup>'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

focus = justice (examples)

<sup>6</sup>Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. <sup>7</sup>"And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

(Mt 12:18-19) <sup>18</sup>"Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He will declare justice to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>He will not quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.

(Isa 42:4) <sup>4</sup>He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth;

So why day and night persistent prayer?

(Prayer cannot be getting God to do what He already wants to do?)

What is He "bearing long" with you and me? (Who is waiting on who?)

**What if prayer is more about aligning us than moving Him?**

<sup>8</sup>"I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

He declares justice speedily.

Do we have the faith to partner with Him in prayer and see it executed?

Daniel 9 – praying word (already declared – 70 yr captivity)

(Da 9:23) <sup>23</sup>"At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I (Gabriel) have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

greater revelation/partnership (prophecy of coming Messiah)

Daniel 10 – 3 weeks fasting & prayer

(Da 10:12-13) <sup>12</sup>Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup>"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days;

spiritual warfare over declaration in heavens (Eph 6:12)

increased revelation/partnership (What if he'd quit early?)

Prayer is partnering with God in executing justice in the earth. (Rev 8 fire/trumpets)

ex: abortion exposure now

ex: youth renewal/Rodney Howard Brown in Tampa, spring 1993

(Mt 11:12 NIV) From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

God declares justice, releasing grace into an open heaven.

Praying saints lay hold of it. (execute it)

ex: FCC healing (in atmosphere)