

**Sneak  
Peek!**

 Precept®

# The Practice of Prayer

*A Collection on Prayer, Volume Four*

## The Practice of Prayer

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 Precept®

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Precept® Bible Studies

# The Practice of Prayer

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## THE METHOD

We believe that relationship with God comes through knowing His Word. Studying the Bible allows us to know God deeply and live differently, being transformed into the image of Jesus.

We approach Bible study with a hands-on method. The Bible is thousands of years old, and it becomes easy to skim over strange stories or familiar verses without true understanding. To help you explore Scripture for yourself, we rely on the Precept Bible Study Method:



**Observe:** What does the text say?



**Interpret:** What does the text mean?



**Apply:** How should the meaning affect my life?

Taken together, these three components help you slow down, discover meaning, and find connections to your daily life.



### WELCOME TO PRECEPT!

Scan the QR code to view a welcome video from one of our Precept team members.

# Lesson Two: An Unjust Judge and a Just God



## LUKE 18:1-8

The desire to practice something for a lifetime begins with a clear *why*. And when it comes to prayer, our *why* is deeply connected to the question of *Who*. Let's explore one of Jesus' teachings on prayer and discover what He taught about the Father's heart.

### Read Luke 18:1-8.

In the Appendix, you will find an Observation Sheet with the text of Luke 18.

As you read, mark each of the following:

- 1 //** references to *God* (including pronouns such as *his, him, he, and you*) with a purple triangle
- 2 //** the word *justice* with an orange circle
- 3 //** the words *pray/cry* with a blue arrow pointing up

It may help to read through the passage multiple times, marking each reference or word one at a time. Or, if you prefer, you can mark them all during a single reading. Do what works best for you.

 **Let's take a closer look.**

**1** // What was Jesus' purpose in telling His disciples the parable of the persistent widow?

**2** // How did Jesus describe the judge?

**3** // What was the judge's initial response to the widow? Why did he finally give in?

**4** // How did Jesus contrast the judge's character with God's character?

**5** // How is God's response to our prayers different from the judge's response to the widow?

## OBSERVATION SHEET

### Luke 18:1-17

- 1 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?"
- 9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:
- 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
- 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.
- 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'
- 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'
- 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
- 15 Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

- 16 But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.
- 17 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

We hope you have enjoyed this Precept Bible study guide. We encourage you to continue your exploration of prayer by completing the rest of our Bible study guides from this collection!

***The Purpose of Prayer***

A Collection on Prayer, Volume One

***The Promises of Prayer***

A Collection on Prayer, Volume Two

***The Power of Prayer***

A Collection on Prayer, Volume Three

***The Practice of Prayer***

A Collection on Prayer, Volume Four

## Prayer takes *practice*.

Nothing worth doing comes without practice—and prayer is no exception. In this fourth and final volume of our Prayer Collection, we will turn our hearts toward the practice of prayer. Building on its purpose, promises, and power, we now ask: How do we live it out? What does it mean to pray without ceasing? How do we move beyond hurried words into deeper, more intimate communion with God? How do we begin to experience His presence in each moment? Through practical guidance and scriptural insights, we will learn to accept the Father’s invitation to cultivate a richer, more fulfilling life of prayer—one of unbroken connection with Him, woven into the tapestry of our everyday lives.

## About Precept

Precept exists to engage people in relationship with God through knowing His Word. Scripture guides us toward God—and Precept guides you through Scripture. Tailored for the believer looking to know, understand, and live out God’s Word, Precept’s® Bible studies will lead you through essential themes in Scripture so you can experience life-changing intimacy with God. Perfect for individuals or groups, these studies offer an in-depth study of God’s Word that fits your busy schedule. Knowing God deeply and living differently starts here.



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