

# PERSEVERING IN FAITH TO THE END

## LUKE'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 18

*The Parable of the Persistent Widow:* (Verses 1-8) Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" "

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"



As I read again today a message requesting an article of encouragement to those battling schizophrenia, I saw how fitting the choice of this title would be – *Persevering In Faith To the End*. Perseverance is a must throughout life for all believers in Christ Jesus. We are living in perilous times but the light of Christ is brighter than any darkness we may encounter, including schizophrenia.

I battled schizophrenia for years. There were many more times than not when I just wanted to give up the ghost and die. The pain and agony was simply uncanny – and frankly more than I could bear. I despaired of life itself. After awaking in the hospital due to a horrible psychotic episode, I did not want to fight through to recovery. My medical report said that while I was unconscious I stated that I wanted to go home to be with the Lord. And believe me ... I wanted that more than anything. But it was not my time.

I am a simple person in that I choose not to make life more difficult than it already is. Simplicity also applies to my relationship with the Father. So I follow Him based on what I can simply give in obedience to His commands. I had a need to persevere because that is what is required of me of God. I do not make light of it. I know how trying and despairing it can be. But what sat before me and stared me in the face was hell itself. I had to fight for my soul through the grace of Jesus because that is what He commands me to do. We are told to work out our salvation. Demons were either going to take me out, or I was going to take them out in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

All this happened while remembering that Jesus Christ shed his blood for me. That is extreme. He shed His blood for each one of us to bring us back to the Father completely one day but also to give us life abundantly here and now. I had to persevere because I was given a promise from the Lord. He spoke something into my spirit that gave me the strength to go on. To fight through! I needed a reason to live - something to reach for. Maybe that is what you are saying to yourself today. Or it could be: "What's the point? Why can't I just give up. What is the reason to go on?" I feel that way now sometimes even living in my new freedom. The devil loves to throw me a punch saying 'all that suffering was in vain'. So I punch him right back quoting the living word of God.

Maybe you need to hear the still small voice of the Holy Spirit in your spirit to encourage you to keep going. Maybe you just need an arm wrapped around you to give some comfort. I pray whatever the circumstance maybe that you allow the GOD of all comfort to hold you up by His mighty right hand and give you peace. The reason to live, the reason to hold on is because Jesus is worthy of it.

I had to persevere because it was the biggest trial of my faith. I was tested to the extreme. I was stretched beyond my imagination. I had to endure because I would not accept the devil's lies. I had to persevere because I refused to let the devil win in my life. I had to make a resolve that Jesus was enough. That He was big enough to carry me through. I had to persevere so that... when I have done the will of God I will receive what He has promised (Hebrews 10:36) . And so do you.

If I can make it, you can make it. You have my word on that. I was "a throw-away the key" hopeless case. Nothing is too big for our God. It's just hard for us to see that at times. Keep your head up dear friends. Our salvation is nearer than ever before.

Jesus said: " ... but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." (Matthew 24:13) Even so come Lord Jesus! Shalom.

Blessings,

Bethany

Read Bethany's testimony of being delivered from schizophrenia at [www.schizophreniadefeated.com](http://www.schizophreniadefeated.com)

*Quote by the late Alexander Whyte D.D. of Scotland: "The very thing that has caused your whole head to be sick, and your whole heart to be faint, - hitherto unanswered prayer, answered or unanswered, pray you on. The answer is not your business. It is importunate and unfainting prayer that is your only business. And, always, more and more importunate and unfainting prayer... In plain words, when you faint in prayer for a holy heart continue all the more instant in that prayer. Pray always for a holy heart, with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watch thereunto with all perseverance. The next time you feel your heart ready to faint in that kind of prayer, call to mind Who says this to you, and where He says it. This, that men ought always to pray against this adversary, and not to faint.*

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