

**Abide in God's Presence**      Thirty-second Week in Ordinary Time      Saturday, November 17, 2018      3 Jn 5-8;      **Lk 18:1-8**      St. Elizabeth of Hungary, religious      (Jesus' point is the need to pray always without becoming wary, because when we pray we are really lifting up our minds and hearts to God.)

**“But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”**

That is not meant as a rhetorical question, but it may seem so. “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith?” Well the Son of Man has come; **has he found faith? Yes and no.**

**The kind of faith demonstrated in this particular reading** is a type of faith that is actually very, well let's say hard to come by. It isn't simply believing in a doctrine or a teaching. It's trusting completely in God's goodness; that's what it means here, **trusting completely in God's goodness so that you believe that God really is answering your prayers, in spite of the fact that what you really ask for does not necessarily come about**, as we know is very often the case. We begin as children. We pray for a new bicycle and no new bicycle. Now there are those who because of those kinds of experiences simply forget prayer.

**But Jesus' point is the need to pray always without becoming weary, because when we pray we are really lifting up our minds and hearts to God.** That's what real prayer is, not asking for something as a child might ask a parent, for example, that's not actually prayer. Prayer is lifting up the mind and heart to God. And **when we lift our minds and hearts up to God always without becoming weary, we are living on a different level**, and we will be abiding in peace in spite of the fact that the world will be just the same way it was before we learn to pray always. Bad people will still be doing bad things, and good people will still be doing good things. It will still rain on some days and snow on others; night and day will come. That all stays the same. But in the midst of this we can live a blessed life if we pray always, if we raise our hearts to God and **trust that we are being cared for.** So what he is really suggesting is a new lifestyle when we really abide in God's presence.