

**(Food for thought)**

Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14.

**“Attentive Prayer”**



The Christian understanding of prayer is one where, even though it involves our active participation, it is an event where God has the primary role. He is the Initiator of our prayer, and prayer is always a response to His invitation. In order to respond, we first must listen, be attentive, to tune in to the power of the Spirit within us already.

Prayer, in this sense, is not so much something we do, but rather a way of seeing and hearing what in fact is already being done.

God is present to us in the most un-magnificent and most ordinary ways. We must be attentive to that presence, because that presence is elusive and fragile and easily missed. Each of us is different,

and we each live different styles of life within the community of faith. What the practice of prayer means for each of us will vary also. It may all look different or take different forms, but it will be, finally, the same thing. It will be being attentive to the presence of God in our lives. It will involve being faithful to Him, to ourselves and to one another. It will take perseverance and persistence. It will be both the joy of the mountaintop and the drought of the desert.

But in the end, it will be the prayer of the Spirit who lives within us, praying in silence, "Abba, Father!"

