Luke 18:1-8
Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'"  
The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Our Scripture Reflection
Have you ever wondered what it sounds like when God listens to us down on earth? "Give me, give me, give me, help, help, help, I want, I want, I want, I want....." Do you get my point? And to think, God never gets tired of listening to His children! Oh how impatient we can be with God. When we want something we want it yesterday. While we are not told what the widow specifically wanted from the unjust judge, her request was legitimate. Why did the judge delay in granting her request? She was a nobody. She had zero power or influence, or so it seemed initially. She did have one huge gift, however: perseverance.
She would not give up asking. Jesus uses the poor woman as an example on how we are to pray. Our God is not deaf. He listens to us. He wants nothing but the best for us. Why do we have to wait at times? So that we can HUMBLY learn the difference between our WANTS and our NEEDS. If a corrupt judge can answer a poor widows’ plea, how much more will our all-loving God who cares about us provide us with what He knows we need. Will we persevere in the process?

Food for your Journey

I have a 7-year-old granddaughter by marriage named Madeline. She is blond, skinny and tall for her age. ... What I want Madeline to know is that the best thing about prayer is the relationship itself. Whether or not she gets what she asks for, I want her to keep asking. I want her to pester God the same way she pesters her mother, thinking of 12 different ways to plead her case. I want her to long for God the same way she longs for her father, holding fast to him even when his chair is empty.

When she complains that none of this does any good, I am going to ask her to tell me the difference between how she feels while she is praying versus how she feels when she thinks about giving up. If I am lucky, she is going to tell me that she feels more alive when she is praying, and that is when I will tell her the story about the persistent widow ...


A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, You never ever give up on me, but why am I so quick to get frustrated and angry with You and give up? Is it that I naively think I can control You in doing so? You are God, all powerful and all knowing. I need to realize and accept the fact that I am not. I am Your creature loved and redeemed by You. Please give me the Grace of humility so that I may be aware of Your love and grateful for it. Amen