

WHY MUST I KEEP ON PRAYING PERSISTENTLY?

Seeking God for a Breakthrough – Part 5

Colossians 4:2 (TEV) “Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, always giving thanks to God.”

Luke 11:5-10 "But then, Jesus said, ‘Suppose you went to your neighbor's house at midnight and knocked on his door.’ And said, ‘An out of town guest has just arrived at my place. He is hungry and I have nothing to feed him so I need to borrow three loaves of bread!’ Your neighbor would probably whisper from the inside of his house, ‘Don't bother me! The door's already locked for the night. We're all in bed. I can't wake up everybody just to help you!’ But even though he would not help you out of friendship, if you keep persistently knocking on his door, he's going to get up and he's going to give you what you need because of your persistence. I tell you this, ‘Keep on asking and you'll get it! Keep on seeking and you'll find! Keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you! For everyone who asks receive and everyone who seeks will find. If you keep on knocking, the door will be opened to you.’”

Luke 18:1 “One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate that they should always keep on praying and never give up!”

Luke 18:2-7a "There once was a big city judge, who didn't care at all about God or people. But there was an elderly widow who kept coming to this judge over and over pleading for the judge to protect her rights and do something about a man who had cheated her. For a long time, this judge just ignored her pleas for help, but eventually he had enough. He thought to himself, 'You know, even though I don't care at all about what God or what this woman think, I'm tired of her pestering requests so I'm going to see that she gets justice just to get her to be quiet and stop bothering me.' Then the Lord said, 'Now, learn a lesson from this uncaring judge. Even if that corrupt, uncaring judge eventually gave into that woman's request, won't God who loves you deeply surely give you what is right if you keep crying out to him day and night?'"

WHY PRAY PERSISTENTLY?

1. It keeps my _____.

Psalm 25:15 “My eyes are continually looking to the Lord for help, for he alone can rescue me from all the traps.”

Psalm 105:4 “Look to the Lord and his strength; Seek his face constantly.”

2. It teaches me _____.

Zechariah 13:9a (TEV) “I will TEST and PURIFY them as silver is purified by fire. I will test them as gold is tested. Then they will pray to me, and I will answer them.”

• It tests _____
Psalm 37:4 (NLT) “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

• It tests _____

Matthew 6:32-33 “Why be like unbelievers who worry about everything? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need. IF your first concern is to live for His Kingdom.”

Psalm 84:11b (NLT) “No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right.”

• It tests _____

2 Chronicles 32:31b (Mes) “God left Hezekiah on his own for a while to see what he would do; God wanted to test his heart.”

Deuteronomy 8:2 (NLT) “The Lord led you through the wilderness for forty years, humbling and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would really obey his commands.”

Romans 6:13c “Give yourself completely to God, to be used in the hands of God for his good purposes.”

• It tests _____

Jeremiah 29:11 (LB) “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.’”

Galatians 6:9 “Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for at the right time, we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.”

4 WAYS GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

1. When my request is not right, God _____

2. When I'm not right, God _____

3. When the timing's not right, God _____

Habakkuk 2:3 “Do not be discouraged if the vision isn't fulfilled overnight. Surely it will happen. It will not be overdue a single day.”

4. When my request, timing and character are right, God _____

Ephesians 6:18 “Pray at ALL times, and on EVERY occasion, in the power of the Holy Spirit. ALWAYS stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for ALL Christians EVERYWHERE.”

Spiritual Growth Evaluation

Step One: Steps of Faith and Growth for the New Believer

- _____ Accept Christ as my Lord and Savior
- _____ Baptized
- _____ Spiritual Growth Class (Part 1) - 5 week class
- _____ Giving
- _____ Serving
- _____ Committed to Attendance
- _____ Invite a friend to church

Step Two: Steps of Faith and Growth for the Committed Believer

- _____ Spiritual Growth Class (Part 2 & 3) - 9 week class
- _____ Purpose Driven Church Class - 6 week class
- _____ Compassion Ministry Outing
- _____ Committed to a Daily Time of Bible Reading and Prayer
- _____ Tithing
- _____ Contagious Christian Class - 6 weeks
- _____ SHAPE Class

Step Three: Steps of Faith and Growth for the Mature Believer

_____ New Testament Class

_____ Old Testament Class

_____ Leadership Class

_____ Leading a Ministry

_____ Basic Biblical Counseling Class

_____ Mission Trip to a Third World Country

_____ Read the whole Bible in the last 5 years

_____ Joined the Church's Leadership Team