

ANYQUESTIONS?

“Should I Keep Praying?” -- Part 3 of 5

March 13, 2016

“Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.” Luke 18:1 (NIV)

The Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8)

“... Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers...” Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

1. WHY KEEP ON PRAYING UNTIL I GET AN ANSWER?

a. PERSISTENT PRAYING FOCUSES MY _____

“Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.” Matthew 6:6 (Message)

“Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what He is doing.”

Romans 8:7 (Message)

b. PERSISTENT PRAYING CLARIFIES MY _____

“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.” Romans 8:26 (NLT)

c. PERSISTENT PRAYING _____ MY FAITH

“Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.”

Proverbs 17:3 (NLT)

“When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed you will be strong in character and ready for anything.” James 1:3-4 (NLT)

d. PERSISTENT PRAYING PREPARES MY _____ FOR THE _____

“... God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.”
Ephesians 3:20b (NCV)

2. HOW LONG SHOULD I KEEP ON PRAYING?

“Pray all the time...”

Ephesians 6:18 (LB)

“Pray continually...”

Romans 12:12 (GWT)

“Never stop praying...”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ICB)

I CAN STOP PRAYING WHEN...

- GOD CHANGES THE _____
- GOD CHANGES _____

3. WHAT DO I DO WHILE I'M PRAYING?

- WAIT _____

“Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act...”
Psalm 37:7a (NLT)

- WAIT _____

“...I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for He has promised.”
Psalm 130:5 (LB)

God speaking “...no one who waits for My help will be disappointed.”
Isaiah 49:23b (GN)

“Pile your troubles on God’s shoulders – He’ll carry your load, He’ll help you out.” Psalm 55:22 (Message)