



# PRAYER AND CHRIST'S POWER FROM GOD

**Luke 11:5-13**

Paul J. Bucknell

## The Persistence of Prayer

### Persistence Works (5-9)

#### Principle of Persistence

Jesus teaches us the principle of persistence. If we keep at something, we will find out that it will finally work. Jesus was particularly applying this principle to asking people for something, but indeed it has its application in our labs, homes and classrooms as well.

What do you mean persistent?! I can't even get them to ask once!!!

Persistence with men works because a person's repeated attempts to obtain something proves that he is desperate and dependent upon you. Otherwise he would stop asking or go somewhere else. You are apt to give in to his request because his insistence convinces you of his real need and reminds you of your responsibility to help him.

### Ask, Seek, Knock (9-10)

#### Evidence of Persistence

A person is apt to think he is persistent if he keeps up the activity of asking. Jesus teaches us persistence must sometimes go beyond just talk. **Asking** is not to be discouraged. It is foundational in gaining what we need. The person who asks will get. But there are further dimensions of asking such as seeking and knocking. **Seeking** is when one relentlessly looks for other avenues by which something can be done. This person will find. The other dimension is the **knock**. He is so strongly convinced of his need that he will disturb people just so he can get what he needs.

#### All 3 principles complement each other.

• There is the straightforward lesson of persistence. Persistence works.  
• Persistence means that we need to do everything within our ability to gain those things which we ask. We don't stop with asking. We ask, seek, and knock if necessary.  
• Only one thing will keep us going: We know God is a good God and will bless us. We don't have to worry whether He will be bothered by our persistent prayers. We know that He delights in them.

### Giver of Good Gifts (11-13)

#### Motivation of Persistence

Our whole reason for asking in the first place is because we believe He can help us. But after asking and getting no affirmative answer, we sometimes wonder whether he really wants to give us such things. Or perhaps we wonder whether we will upset Him. Jesus says don't worry. The asking will never backfire even if we are stupidly asking for the wrong things! What a relief the Lord know how to give good gifts to His children.

Why do we need to be persistent in prayer?

- 1) God is training our faith.
- 2) Time delays help prepare us, others or the circumstance we are praying for.
- 3) Delays help us better understand what we are asking.
- 4) Satan and his forces are strategically set out to hinder God's work to be done.

Persistence in prayer convinces us that we are fully dependent on the Lord. We are in dire need of His help. We are at the same time deepening our conviction that He can and wants to help us.

§ Why are we not asking?

§ Why are we not persistent in prayers?

§ What does He mean by asking for the Holy Spirit?