

**Perseverance—
3rd Ingredient of
Effectual
(Result-oriented) Prayer**



James 5:16—"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person avails (produces) much."

Required ingredients:

God's will, faith, perseverance

Definition of perseverance/patience/persistence— Heb. 6:12—“We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith (expectant receiving) **and perseverance** inherit what has been promised.” – 25 years between God’s promise of a son to Abraham and Isaac’s birth

Lit. Greek-- “*remaining under*”--“the capacity to endure waiting, delay, or the need to exert continual pressure, without giving up”

Jesus' 2 Parable on Perseverance/Persistence in Prayer

Parable 1: Shameless Boldness in Asking— “Asking Big!”

Luke 11:1-13 – the parable of the three friends –
“shameless audacity/boldness” (NIV) in asking is the
reason Jesus says the answer is given


Eph. 4:16—“Let us come **boldly** before the throne of
grace, to obtain mercy and grace in time of need.”



- **Example: Peter**
- **Matt. 14:28—“Lord, command me to come to You on the water.”** A big ask – answer—ok, yes, come!
- Evan Roberts: asked God for 100,000 souls to be saved in Wales



- **Parable 2:Continual (Repeated) Asking (In Faith)**
- **Luke 18: 1-8** – parable’s purpose: to instruct us to pray repeatedly without giving up—key—the widow’s “continual coming” is the key to receiving her answer—repeatedly asking (bold again) – “cry to Him day and night”

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- **Key Insight into Persevering Prayer**—“with thanksgiving”
 - Phil. 4:6—“by prayer (asking) and supplication (intensity of prayer)—**with thanksgiving...**” -- thanksgiving for the answer “received” by faith, evidence of assurance that the answer is on its way

**Why
Perseverance
is Needed—
Biblical
Pictures of
Why**

- 1. Because In Prayer We Truly Partner with God** by joining our wills to His through prayer to produce the kingdom—a real process, spiritually as real as a physical process; our part is absolutely necessary. “Without Him, we can’t; without us, He won’t.”

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2. Because Our Prayers “Heap Up” God’s Power to a “Tipping Point” At times prayer needs to be “heaped up” (Andrew Murray) until a “tipping point” is reached, producing the answer comes – Rev. 5:8—“golden bowls of incense which are the prayers of the saints” – like the gift of healing (vs. miracles of healing)

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- **3. Because God Creates/Grows the Answer Through Our Prayers Over Time**—“the law of gradual growth” – (Andrew Murray) – To manifest answers, God normally works through the created laws of space and time (miracles—exception). Mark 4:28—the “kingdom of God” is like...“first the plant, then the ear, then the full amount of grains in the ear”
- to ask initially=planting the seed
- persevering prayer=watering, fertilizing – the means God uses to produce healthy growth to the plant He wants to bear fruit



Because Spiritual Opposition Must be Overcome

Dan. 10:10-12—Daniel prayed 21 days to overcome demonic opposition to God's answer to him, that started on its way to him when he first prayed for it. – opposition to kingdom events of all kinds – we have authority to “bind” (wrap in chains) demonic entities when we are exercising authority in our appropriate spheres.

When Must We Persevere in Prayer?

- **No fixed formula**—1 Co. 12:6—“God does things in various ways.”
- **The Spirit Will Let You Know**—Ro. 8:16—“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirits...”

- Sometimes one and done (“It’s done!”)—kind of prayer combining gift of faith and miracles – Jesus’ prayers for healing/deliverance
- Sometimes repeated applications of faith-filled (with thanksgiving) prayer—with no sign of the answer--until the answer is manifested, or until you have “prayed through”
- Elijah – 1 Kings 18:42-44 -- Elijah prayed 7 times to produce the rain that was God’s will – the example of James 5:16
- George Mueller—moved in both kinds—note: prayed regularly for childhood friends to be saved, for years. All saved, one at his funeral.
- Prayers for the fall of the Berlin Wall