

Does Prayer Really Work?
F.A.Q.'s Part 4
Luke 18:1

Introduction:

"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)

"... Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

WHY KEEP ON PRAYING UNTIL I GET AN ANSWER?

1. PERSISTENT PRAYING _____

"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 (Mes)

"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 (Mes)

2. PERSISTENT PRAYING _____

"The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." Romans 8:26 (NIV)

3. PERSISTENT PRAYING _____

"The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart."
Proverbs 17:3 (NIV)

"... You know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:3-4 (NIV)

4. PERSISTENT PRAYING _____

"...to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."
Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

II. HOW LONG SHOULD I KEEP ON PRAYING?

Ephesians 6:18 (LB)

Romans 12:12 (GWT)

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ICB)

I CAN STOP PRAYING WHEN...

GOD _____

GOD _____

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

- **WAIT** _____

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him." Psalm 37:7 (NIV)

- **WAIT** _____

"My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him."
Psalm 62:5 (NKJV)

"They shall not be ashamed who wait for Me." Isaiah 49:23 (NKJV)

"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you." Psalm 55:22 (NIV)

"Pile your troubles on God's shoulders – He'll carry your load, He'll help you out."
Psalm 55:22 (Mes)

Closing: