

BONUS SESSION

WHY DOESN'T GOD ALWAYS ANSWER THE FIRST TIME I PRAY?



CHECKING IN

What opportunities have you had this week to pray with someone going through a crisis or encourage someone who is feeling overwhelmed?

KEY VERSE

Always keep on praying.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:17 (TLB)

Watch the video lesson now and follow along in your outline.

BONUS SESSION

WHY DOESN'T GOD ALWAYS ANSWER THE FIRST TIME I PRAY?

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.”*

LUKE 11:9 (NIV)

*“For everyone who asks [and keeps on asking] receives; the one who
seeks [and keeps on seeking] finds; and to the one who knocks
[and keeps on knocking], the door will be opened.”*

LUKE 11:10 (NIV)

*Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray,
giving thanks to God.*

COLOSSIANS 4:2 (GNT)

WHY DOES GOD WANT ME TO PERSIST IN PRAYER?

- Praying persistently _____.

My eyes are always looking to the Lord for help.

PSALM 25:15 (NCV)

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

PSALM 105:4 (NIV)

- Praying persistently _____.

While you are working on your prayer, God is working on you.

"I will test . . . and will 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."

ZECHARIAH 13:9 (GNT)

- God will _____ me before he _____ me.

- Praying persistently _____.

"The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you."

MATTHEW 6:33 (NCV)

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

PSALM 37:4 (NRSV)

- Praying persistently _____.

- _____ is a mark of maturity.

God left [Hezekiah] on his own to see what he would do; [God] wanted to test his heart."

2 CHRONICLES 32:31 (THE MESSAGE)

The first question you have to ask yourself is, "Am I willing to let God change me instead of changing the circumstance?"

Give yourselves completely to God . . . to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes.

ROMANS 6:13 (TLB)

- Praying persistently _____.

Ultimately, the real question you have to answer is: Do I trust my feelings, or do I trust my Father? Will I trust him even if his answer isn't what I had in mind?

- When _____, God says _____.
- When _____, God says _____.
- When _____, God says _____.

"These things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely; the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!"

HABAKKUK 2:3 (TLB)

- When _____
are all lined up, God says _____.

Always keep on praying.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17 (TLB)

Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.

GALATIANS 6:9 (TLB)

Discovery Questions

Choose the questions that are right for your group and take time to let God work in your lives.

- **Praying persistently teaches us about ourselves. What do you think God is trying to teach you as you wait for him to answer your prayer?**

- **Praying persistently tests our faith. Using the model of “no, grow, slow, and go,” in what ways has your faith been tested as you persist in prayer?**

- **What has been the greatest highlight or takeaway for you during 40 Days of Prayer?**
