

# Persistence

## Chapter 11

What is the purpose of praying again and again and again? What is the purpose of repeating to yourself verses, and scriptures over and over and over? What is the purpose of asking everyone you know to pray for you until you have many brothers and sisters praying for you?

Why, what is the purpose of this, to force God to answer, to force God to comply with your wishes? NO. Heavens No. No one forces God to do anything. God never acts on force; He acts only on your faith. The Key here is Faith.

So the purpose is to build our faith: your faith. We are stubborn; we are sometimes stone hearted and cold-hearted people. We need help to get through this hard, cold and stubborn heart to build the faith at least the size of a mustard seed, and with that much faith, God says that you can move mountains. But we have to do everything and anything to get our heart and mind to agree and be sincere.

I have heard of people who find scriptures that were given by God to help us, and they seem that they were to help people out of their extreme situation. There was a man who had terminal cancer, the doctors said he had very little time to live. He has just accepted Jesus as his savior and he had been reading the bible. He had been going to several crusades and Christian Conventions, where they were preaching deliverance and healing. Of course being a new Christian, he really did not have much faith. But he went and he went, but nothing seemed to happen. His faith grew, but he was still very sick. So he decided that he was going to call God on His promises of healing. I mean he was a young man, married with a couple of small children. He had to live to raise them.

So when he read the bible, he would make signs of God's promises, and especially of healing. And then he would put them around the house. In the kitchen, the living room, his bedroom, his bathroom, the garage. He put them everywhere he would be, and as he entered that room he would read them aloud. And as he read them, he made the decision that he was determined that he was going to believe them. And so he built his faith. Everyday he would read them and believe them. He would proclaim them for himself. And of course he prayed for God to heal him, and that the doctors are a liar, that the tests are a liar, that God is the master over the body, over the physical world, and that the doctors decree was not for him.

After doing this for a while, (I do not remember the time it took in his story), he started to notice that he was feeling better, and better and better. After awhile, he went back to the doctors to make sure, and sure enough they told him that he was healed; that there was not a lick of cancer, and that was many, many, many years ago; and he still does not have cancer today.

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So now what? I mean, we know that God heals, and He can heal quickly, but why did it take so long for him? I mean, does God have a faith-o-meter and he measured his faith everyday until the Meter hits Mustard seed? I do not believe so. I believe that it took that much time for him to be sincere, for his mind to agree with his heart. That was the method God used for him to become sincere. Your faith needs to be in agreement between your heart and your mind. His persistence was what it took for him to become sincere, and earnest.

He is now a pastor for a very prosperous church on the East Coast. And now when he prays, he always prays earnestly and God answers in moments and not day, months or a year, for his persistence has taught him how to be sincere and to pray earnestly.

The persistence is to break through your heart and mind. We cannot forget our minds, for to be sincere your mind and heart must agree. Sometimes you have to pound and pound and pound your heart with scriptures, prayer, and meditation for the Holy Spirit to break through for God to open your heart to understand and build your faith.

JAS 5:10 “Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11] **As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.**”

JAS 5:12 “Above all, my brothers, do not swear--not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.”

JAS 5:13 “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. [14] Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. [16] Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.**

JAS 5:17 “Elijah was a man just like us. **He prayed earnestly** that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. [18] Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

How did he learn to pray earnestly?

1KI 19:14 “He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down

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your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.””

He was very zealous for the Lord. He learned the truth of the Lord, he wanted the Lord with all of his heart and mind and soul. He dedicates his life to the Lord.

I have always wondered, “How long to I have to pray?” Do I pray once, or twice, or every time it comes to mind? Do I pray until it happens? When does continuance of pray, stop being of faith and just becomes a pest, just like chanting? Of course Jesus gives the parable of the persistent neighbor.

LK 11:5 “Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, `Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, [6] because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'

LK 11:7 "Then the one inside answers, `Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' [8] I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, **yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.**”

Do you think that this friend with the bread is doing it because he is being nice or because if he does not get it, the friend at the door will not stop knocking? Kind of, but I believe that he gives him the bread because of his sincerity as shown by his boldness. He is sincere in his reason for wanting the bread, his friend is hungry and he has no food. It is not because his is selfish, or not caring, it shows his sincereness in caring for someone in great need. He is being compassionate to his hungry friend, and the friend in the house can see that he is earnest in his compassion, and the little work to get the bread is less than the starvation (maybe a little extreme) of his other friends.

Of course in my mind, if they were good friends as well as neighbors, the one asking should not have to do more than that, because the one with the bread should know him enough to know that he would not just ask like this without a good reason. Therefore, he should not have to be bold for him to provide the bread, he should do it automatically because they are friends and neighbors. So what does this say? It says that the one asking for bread has a lot of faith in the one in the house to give him the bread.

The man in the house might have been his friend, but he still had a hard heart. He still made excuses as to why he would not help. He finally helped because he knew that because his friend was earnest and sincere in his desire to help his starving friend, that he better give the bread, because he knew that his neighbor would not stop knocking until he got what he desired to fulfill his righteous cause.

How much greater is it to show your faith if you ask and do not doubt, but you believe in your heart and mind that you will receive it, because the one you are asking is

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always faithful to you. Then what better way to show you faith, then by thanking Him before you have received it, or praising Him for His faithfulness and kindness. We thank Him for what He is doing, but for the bad condition we maybe in. Like the man above with cancer, he praised the Lord and thanked the Lord, not for his pending death, but for his pending healing. For God's mercy and grace and finally for God's favor on his and his family's life.

We should persist more in our gratitude for God's mercy and grace, then to pray over and over again for healing. God knows you need healing. And after you prayed once, you have asked for healing, now you need to show your faith by believing that God has healed you. What better way then by thanking and praising God for His great power and authority over cancer and all diseases?

## Mind of Christ

In order for your minds to agree with our hearts, we must renew our minds so that it becomes like that of Christ.

RO 8:1 "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [2] because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. [3] For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, [4] in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."

RO 8:5 "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] **The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;** [7] **the sinful mind is hostile to God.** It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."

RO 11:34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been His counselor?"

RO 11:35 "Who has ever given to God,  
that God should repay him?"

RO 11:36 "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

RO 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

EPH 4:20 “You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. [21] Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. [22] **You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; [23] to be made new in the attitude of your minds; [24] and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

COL 1:21 “Once you were alienated from God and were enemies **in your minds because of your evil behavior.** [22] But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- [23] **if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.** This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”

And too here is why you must renew you mind to be that of God's and Christ's. Because evil behavior will not be allowed in Heaven. And so you have your lifetime to change—repent—from it.

EPH 2:1 “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [2] **in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.** [3] All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. [4] But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. [6] And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [7] in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

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When we were born in this world we were taught by this world's rulers and evil controlling spirits. They taught us it is a dog eat dog life, to look after number one, yourself, that breaking the law is only bad when you get caught, that it is ok to cheat and lie, for the end justifies the means. But in God's kingdom it is not, it is a give and give life; it is a life being full of mercy and grace, not stealing and murdering. So you have to renew your mind from the world's concepts to the Kingdom of God's concepts. You need to think and so act God's way, not the world's way. As you see from COL 1:21 above that your evil behavior will land you in hell, no matter what your faith. It is your actions that will be counted against you when you go before God for judgment. And that your behavior is dependent on your mind set and the condition of your heart. They all go together.

As a reminder, that evil spirits in your heart will always try to influence you to have bad behavior. You cannot control them, you cannot drug them, you cannot try to use the power of positive thinking to over come them, you cannot use tran-meditation, hypnosis, or any other means to control them, they cannot be controlled, if they could then God would not have cast them out of Heaven. No, the only way to control them is to do like God did and that is to cast them out of you. Window control is the only way to do this. If you do not know what this is then you have to read Volume 3 Chapter 4. This is a must. People try to use many methods of controlling people, and they do not work, because until you control the puppet master, you cannot expect people to do good.

We were made for doing good. That is how God originally created us. But once Adam and Eve sinned, then sin and evil spirits have come to control them and so us. Making a law to say that murder is wrong and that if you do it you will be punished, and killed yourself. But the devil and his evil spirits do not care, in fact they prefer it. That way they will have more company in hell with them. Protesting pornography does not stop the evil in people from still making them want it, or lying or cheating, or anything.

Nothing deters evil, in fact all of these deterrents are a catalyst to make them want to do more. Only casting them out, will stop them from controlling people. Of course if you are still empty and do not have the Holy Spirit in you to replace them then you will be worse off, Matthew

MT 12:43 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. [44] Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. [45] Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

Only window control can and will save you from being controlled by evil spirits and it is the only way to be set free. Finally, window control only happens by the renewal of your mind, so that you have the mind of Christ.

I know that much of this should be a repetition but the subtle point here is to try to answer why we need to persevere, why we need to pray over and over, why we need to keep putting in our minds, scriptures, and to constantly give thanksgiving, and that is to get through to hour hard hearts and stubborn minds things of God and His promises, and that we need to decide to believe them. Some times that it takes time to break through. The method of solution after the break through is still the same, but the break through is the point here.

God is constantly warning us of being deceived. He is constantly saying, “Do not be deceived.” Now of course the question is how? How do we not be deceived? The answer is, “Know the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness.”

## Conclusion

You know you should but your heart does not believe; you want to, but your mind does not see the logic in it. These things you must overcome, and decide to do it anyway, to trust, and believe in God’s ability to fulfill His promises, and in God’s love for you, just as you are, but that does not mean that He will let you stay that way. You need to grow in the Spirit and in you knowledge of the Kingdom of God and in your understanding of His ways of doing things, and His righteousness.

RO 2:5 “But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. [6] God "will give to each person according to what he has done." [7] To those who by **persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality**, He will give eternal life. [8] But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. [9] There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; [10] but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. [11] For God does not show favoritism.”

RO 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [2] through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. [3] **Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; [4] perseverance, character; and character, hope. [5] And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.”**

HEB 12:7 “Endure hardship as discipline; **God is treating you as sons.** For what son is not disciplined by his father? [8] If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. [9] Moreover, we have all had human fathers

who disciplined us and we respected them for it. **How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!** [10] Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. [11] No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, **it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.**”

HEB 12:12 “Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. [13] "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.”

JAS 1:2 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] **because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.** [4] **Perseverance** must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. [5] If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. [6] **But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.** [7] **That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;** [8] **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.**

JAS 5:7 “Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. [8] You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. [9] Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!”

JAS 5:10 “Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11] As you know, we consider blessed those who have **persevered.** You have heard of Job's **perseverance** and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

JAS 5:12 “Above all, my brothers, do not swear--not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.”

2PE 1:2 “**Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.**”

2PE 1:3 “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. [4] Through these He has given us His very great and



precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

2PE 1:5 “**For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [6] and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; [7] and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.** [8] For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.”

2PE 1:10 “Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, [11] and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

REV 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp stands: [2] I know your deeds, your hard work and your **perseverance**. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. [3] **You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.**”

REV 2:4 “Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. [5] Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place. [6] But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

REV 2:7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”

REV 2:18 "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. [19] I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and **perseverance**, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.”

REV 2:20 “Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. [21] I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. [22] So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. [23] I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. [24] Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): [25] Only hold on to what you have until I come.”

REV 2:26 “**To him who overcomes (perseveres) and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations--**

REV 2:27 ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter;

He will dash them to pieces like pottery’ – just as I have received authority from my Father. [28] I will also give Him the morning star. [29] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

MT 6:28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. [29] Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. [30] If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? [31] So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ [32] For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. [33] **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** [34] Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Always remember, persistence is not to convince God of His promises, He never forgets anything, really, except our sin that He throws into the SEA of Forgetfulness; no you are trying to convince your mind and heart to follow God’s ways. You are building your faith in God. It is not like chanting, where when you reach 1000 God will bless you because you persisted and repeated 1000 times the chant (meaningless and dead words), and then He will move magic on you and give you what you want. No you are persisting until your faith is the size of a mustard seed, and then God will honor your sincerity in your prayer and fulfill it as He promises.

So it is with being persistence. It too is like a weapon. Resist the enemy and he will flee. How do you resist--by being persistent in your faith. How do you build your

faith--by being persistent in your belief. How do you build your belief,--by being persistent in your decisions. How do you build your decisions--by being persistent in increasing your knowledge in Jesus and your understanding of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Now you have faith that moves mountains.

Only when you have a clear mind, a mind of Christ, with a clean (free from evil spirits) and an open heart (one filled with the Holy Spirit), one that understands the Ways of God and His will, then your faith will release God to fulfill your prayers.

HEB 12:7 “Endure hardship as discipline; **God is treating you as sons (children).** For what son (child) is not disciplined by his father? [8] If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. [9] Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. **How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!** [10] Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. [11] No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, **it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.**”

