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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, March 19, 2019 - Keep Praying

MARCH 19TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Matthew 7:7-11

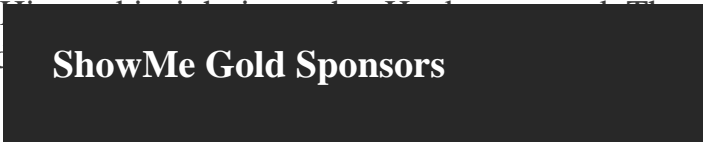
The most powerful thing a Christian can do is pray. Yet how often are we guilty of making prayer our last resort or giving up on it if the answer isn't immediately forthcoming? Perhaps it's this human tendency that prompted Jesus to remind us to persevere in speaking with our Father.

The verb tenses of today's passage in the original Greek could be translated as "keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking." To persevere means to continue firmly on a particular course despite the obstacles or difficulties. It's not a passive approach of asking once and sitting back to wait for the Lord's intervention. The words *seek* and *knock* imply action and effort in discerning God's will and moving in that direction.

In fact, discovering God's will is the very purpose of perseverance—not to override it or get Him to change His mind and do things our way. Through steadfastness in prayer, we learn to focus on the Lord's faithfulness instead of our circumstances, which may show no signs of changing. Praying tenaciously builds our trust and at the same time teaches us to depend on God instead of rushing ahead to get what we want.

God promises that in time we will be given an answer, find what we seek, and walk through

an open door. That's when we discover our "Heavenly Father" always gives us what is good, even if it doesn't look exactly the way we expect or fit our timetable. Through His answers, we gain greater faith in Him. Through His answers, we'll know how to pray more wisely according to His will.



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