

# IMPORTUNITY

A strange word for us today -- and it is used only once in most Bible translations -- in the Book of Luke, chapter 11, verse 8.

Importunity means in simple English -- "Persistence in Requesting or Pleading" -- or -- "Earnestness in Prayer" -- and is found in Christ's Parable of the persistent friend. This friend had need of provision for an unexpected visitor who had arrived late in the evening. Although the neighbor had already retired with his family for the evening and didn't want to be disturbed, the persistence of his friend compelled him to answer the request.

Jesus told this story to emphasize the need of not giving up when we Pray, and He ends with, "*And I say unto you, Ask and it shall be given to you -- Seek, and you shall find -- Knock and it shall be opened to you*" (Luke 11:9).

Persistent Prayer does not mean that we have to badger God to get an answer, but rather that we should be Earnest and Sincere in our Praying -- Believing that we are heard and WILL receive an answer.

God answers every Prayer -- some times He says "Yes" -- other times He says "No" -- and still other times He says "Wait" -- yet be assured that He does answer.

In times when He seems not to answer we must be patient and understanding that His thoughts are far above ours and He sees tomorrow much clearer than we see yesterday or today. God knows best what we need.

It is often questioned something like this -- "Why did God allow my Godly Grandma to die when I prayed so much for her recovery?" -- OR -- "I have prayed for a boy-friend or girl-friend -- or a wife or husband -- and still I'm single?"

Again -- God knows best! He has our lives all planned from the moment of conception and often He is waiting for us to totally surrender to His Will. The Psalmist said, "*You have formed my inner parts -- You have covered me in my mother's womb. I will Praise You, for I am Fearfully and Wonderfully made -- Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well*" (Psalm 139:13,14).

Getting back to "Why did God allow my Godly Grandma die?" Grandma may have been suffering greatly from cancer or some other serious illness -- the doctors may have done everything possible for her -- there was no earthly hope! God answered your prayer in His own perfect way -- God relieved her of her illness and suffering -- He healed her completely -- He took her to be with Him and with no more pain or sorrow. Be assured -- God knows Best!

We are often accused of "Lack of Faith" when God doesn't respond immediately or positively to our Prayers. But, we are encouraged, "*They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength -- they shall mount up with wings as eagles -- they shall run and not be weary -- and they shall walk and not faint*" (Isaiah 40:31).

If we were to follow the Apostle Paul's admonition to -- "*Pray without ceasing*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) we would realize that a constant attitude of Prayer throughout the day (and night) would keep our heart and mind on the right track.

Pray to God in the morning -- thank Him for keeping you through the night.

Pray to God in the evening -- thank Him for the events of the day.

Pray to God throughout the day and commit everything to His safe keeping.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart -- and lean not on your own understanding -- in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5,6).*

**PRAY WITHOUT CEASING! -- BE SURE! -- GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!**

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