

9,10) **Note:** verbs are continuous action in Greek:

Keep on **asking** • we ask for what we lack/need

Keep on **seeking** • we seek for what is not readily apparent or what we’ve lost

keep on **knocking** • we knock to remove obstacles, open doors

everyone who keeps on **asking**

everyone who keeps on **seeking**

everyone who keeps on **knocking**

* in Luke 18 Jesus says: “**Men ought always to pray and not give up.**” **WHY ?**

Common **wrong** reasons for persistence in prayer----

- because we think He doesn’t KNOW what we need (to inform Him)
- because we think He has FORGOTTEN since the last time we prayed (to remind Him)
- because we think He is RELUCTANT to answer (to persuade Him)
- because we think He doesn’t really CARE (to convince Him of the importance of our prayer)

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus covers all these wrong ideas of God:

- * God, your Father, KNOWS before you ask
- * He cares tenderly, even about small things
- * He is watching carefully over you

THEN, WHAT **ARE** THE REASONS FOR PERSISTENCE ?

- TIMING - when you’re God & you’re perfect: timing is everything
- CLARITY - so **we** come to see what is REALLY important...often that changes over time
- HABIT - to create the habit of seeing Him as our provider
- DEPENDENCE - this is always His design for His people...keeps us close to Him
- PERSEVERANCE - is developed by persevering: James: “...must finish its work...”
- BLESSING - He loves it...it blesses Him to hear from you

-----PROMISE: PSALM 84:11-----

“**No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly before Him.**”

- * This means that if we persist in praying in faith and He still does not say “yes”---
 - what we are asking for is NOT a good thing (by His definition)
 - or it is not a good thing YET (His timing is perfect)