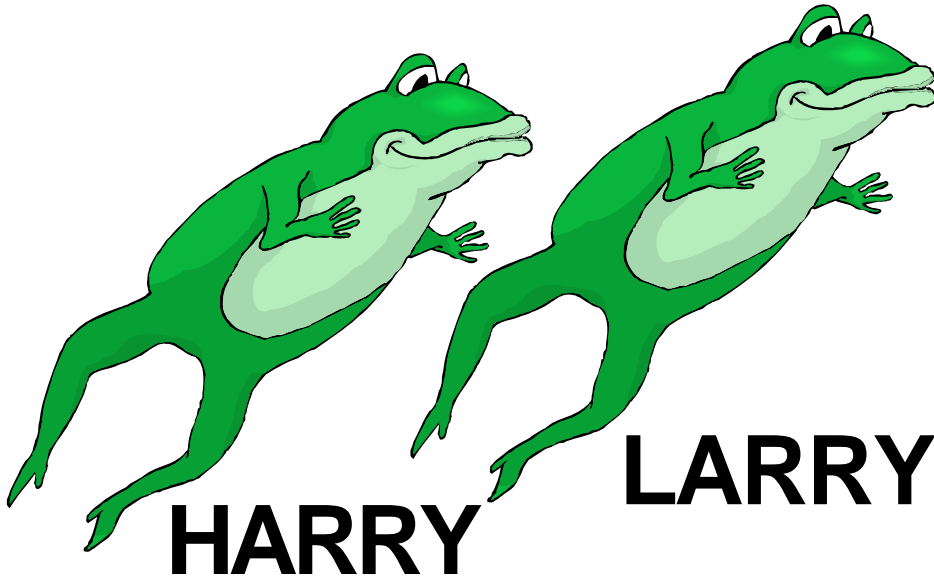


# Don't Quit



## Persistence

A well-known insurance salesman was asked how many times he will call on a prospect before giving up. His answer was: “It depends on which of us dies first!”

### I. Persistence In Prayer

#### Luke 11:5-13

**5** And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

**6** For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

**7** And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

**8** I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him,

because he is his friend, yet **because of his importunity** he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

**9** And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

**10** For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

**11** If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

**12** Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

**13** If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

**IMPORTUNITY** — KJV word for persistence in making a request or demand. In Jesus' parable of the

persistent friend (Luke 11:5–8), a man was rewarded for his importunity (persistence) because he kept knocking on the door. Jesus applied this truth to the need for persistence in prayer.<sup>1</sup>

### II. Persistence In Prayer – Part 2

#### Matthew 15:21-28

**21** Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

**22** And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

**23** But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

**24** But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

**25** Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

**26** But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

**27** And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

**28** Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

— Continued On Back

**15:21–28** Jesus hardly encouraged this woman. As He pointed out, she had no ethnic or religious claim on Him. But somehow she recognized that He was capable of doing what she could not—heal her daughter. In the end, her courage, faith, and sheer persistence won out.

**How persistent are you in crying out to God for people** who matter a lot to you? Like the woman, will you keep coming back to God in faith?

### III. Persistence In Witness

**Acts 5:42**, “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

### IV. Persistence - Conclusion

**1 Corinthians 15:58**, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

- The four men who lowered their sick friend through a roof to see Jesus were persistent. – Jesus healed him.
- Zaccheus who climbed a tree to see Jesus was persistent. – Jesus saved Him.
- Stephen who was stoned to death for preaching was persistent. – Jesus stood to honour him.
- Paul was persistent. – God used him and gave him a “crown of life.”

## Paul: Persistent & Rewarded

### 2 Corinthians 11:24-28

**24** Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

**25** Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

**26** In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

**27** In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

**28** beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

### 2 Timothy 4:6-8

**6** For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

**7** I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

**8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Two frogs (Harry and Larry) fell into a large bucket of milk. They were too far down in the bucket to jump out. Harry and Larry began paddling about, but as the hours went on Harry, always something of a quitter, gave up and sank to the bottom. Later, when the farmer looked into the milk bucket he found a frog floating about on a lump of butter. Good old Larry, **his persistence paid off.**

<sup>1</sup>Ronald F. Youngblood, general editor; F.F. Bruce and R.K. Harrison, consulting editors, *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*

