



# BIBLE STUDY

## *& Life Groups*

TOPIC: WHY DOESN'T GOD ALWAYS  
ANSWER THE FIRST TIME I PRAY

**PASTOR ALTON TRIMBLE**

**FEB | 21<sup>st</sup> | 2024**

*Stay Connected with Us!*

Prayer | Sundays, 9am

Worship Service | Sundays, 9:30am

NextGen Ministries | Sundays, 9:30am

Men's Ministry Bike Ride | Saturday, March 2nd

Community Resource Fair | Saturday, March 16th, 9am

Women's Gathering | Saturday, March 23rd, 10am

Palm Sunday @ GCFI | Sunday, March 24th, 9:30am

Easter @ GCFI | Sunday, March 31st, 9:30am

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## 40 DAYS OF PRAYER CAMPAIGN

**TOPIC: WHY DOESN'T GOD ALWAYS ANSWER THE FIRST TIME I PRAY – Pastor Alton Trimble**  
**Bible Study & Life Groups: Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

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LUKE 11:9 (NIV) *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

LUKE 11:10 (NIV) *"For everyone who asks [AND KEEPS ON ASKING] receives; the one who seeks [AND KEEPS ON SEEKING] finds; and to the one who knocks [AND KEEPS ON KNOCKING], the door will be opened."*

COLOSSIANS 4:2 (GNT) *Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.*

### **WHY DOES GOD WANT ME TO PERSIST IN PRAYER?**

#### 1. PRAYING PERSISTENTLY KEEPS ME FOCUSED ON GOD.

PSALM 25:15 (NCV) *My eyes are always looking to the Lord for help.*

PSALM 105:4 (NIV) *Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.*

#### 2. PRAYING PERSISTENTLY TEACHES ME ABOUT MYSELF.

ZECHARIAH 13:9 (GNT) *And I will test... and will purify them as silver is purified by fire. I will test them as gold is tested. Then they will pray to me, and I will answer them.*

- GOD WILL TEST ME BEFORE HE BLESSES ME.

#### 3. PRAYING PERSISTENTLY TESTS MY PRIORITIES.

MATTHEW 6:33 (NCV) *"The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you."*

PSALM 37:4 (NRSV) *Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

4. PRAYING PERSISTENTLY TESTS MY MATURITY.

- PATIENCE IS A MARK OF MATURITY.

2 CHRONICLES 32:31 (MSG) God left [Hezekiah] on his own to see what he would do; [God] wanted to test his heart.

ROMANS 6:13 (TLB) Give yourselves completely to God... to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for His good purposes.

5. PRAYING PERSISTENTLY TESTS MY FAITH.

- WHEN MY REQUEST IS NOT RIGHT, GOD SAYS NO.
- WHEN I AM NOT RIGHT, GOD SAYS GROW.
- WHEN THE TIMING IS NOT RIGHT, GOD SAYS SLOW.

HABAKKUK 2:3 (TLB) These things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!

- WHEN MY REQUEST AND MY CHARACTER AND THE TIMING ARE ALL LINED UP, GOD SAYS GO.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17 (TLB) Always keep on praying.

GALATIANS 6:9 (TLB) "Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up."

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

- ***Praying persistently teaches us about ourselves. What do you think God is trying to teach you as you wait for him to answer your prayer?***
- ***Praying persistently tests our faith. Using the model of "no, grow, slow, and go," in what ways has your faith been tested as you persist in prayer?***
- ***What has been the greatest highlight or takeaway for you during 40 Days of Prayer?***