

Question: If God is sovereign and if He loves to answer His children's prayers, is it really necessary to persist in prayer?

Answer: God loves it when His children persevere in prayer. I only have to think of George Muller praying some sixty-odd years for a particular person to be converted. The person then trusted in Christ at Mueller's funeral! I believe God often answers persistent prayer but it can take an awful long time. Nevertheless, persistent prayer honors God and keeps us completely dependent upon Him. For example, my mom has suffered with severe migraine headaches on a daily or every other day basis for 21 years! Yet, even today, I continue to pray for her, knowing that the Lord may choose to heal her.

Here are some Scriptures for you to read that may encourage you. Obviously, there are many more and not all of these are perfectly suited to your circumstance. Nevertheless, they are all powerful and it does a soul good to see them all grouped together and read them in a time of need. It's also rather motivational.

- Genesis 32:24-26
- Deuteronomy 4:29-30
- Jeremiah 29:11-14
- Matthew 7:7-11
- Luke 11:5-8
- Luke 18:1-8
- Romans 1: 8-10
- Romans 12:12
- Ephesians 6:18
- Philippians 4:6
- Colossians 4:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- James 4:3

The thing that I love about persistent prayer is that it only takes faith the size of a mustard seed for it to be effective (Matt 17:20). This encourages me to recognize what matters it is not the size of my faith but the strength of my God! All of this is to say, I do believe that you should keep praying about your condition. If I were you, I would recruit people to pray so that you can focus your prayers elsewhere. I would also feel free to request prayer publicly as you sense the Lord's leading. I do agree that there is a time for prayer and a time for trust. Some people tend to ask for prayer in every public environment. This can take the focus off the Lord and others who also need prayer.