



WHAT IS PERSEVERANCE?

Slide 1

May be, one day you too have said: "I **Slide 2** would like God to answer me right away". You may say it too? It's true that God doesn't **Slide 3** always respond right away so ... what do we do?

Slide 4 Do we stop praying? **Slide 5** Do we get discouraged? It can happen and Jesus knows it well. To help us, he told two stories to his disciples.

Slide 6 - Persevere, he said to them, **Slide 7** God gives good things to his children.

But **Slide 8** persevere, do you know what that means?

Here are two little stories.

Listen carefully and then you can answer the question: **Slide 9** what does "Persevere" mean?

Slide 10 WILL HIS FRIEND ANSWER?

Slide 11 Jesus first tells the story of three friends.

Imagine that you are woken up in the middle of the night by **Slide 12** a friend of yours who arrives without warning. **Slide 13** What a surprise! He has made a long trip, he is very tired, he doesn't know where to sleep and he has no food.

Problem...! You have **Slide 14** nothing to offer him.

The situation is delicate.

You then have **Slide 15** the idea of going to your neighbor; he is a friend, maybe he will have something to give you.

No **Slide 16** light! **Slide 17** Everyone must be asleep.

You knock **Slide 18** softly on his door... Nothing!

Slide 19 You start again... Still nothing! No sign of life, not a sound inside.

You **Slide 20** tap a little harder and call out:

- Oh, Oh! Can you open up your door? A friend of mine has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him. I need three loaves of bread can you lend them to me? "

Slide 21 Everything remains silent:

Slide 22 - Ooh! Ooh! Please Open! Open up to me.

You are still drumming.

Slide 23 - Ah! I really can't believe it! To disturb people at such a time. We are all in bed, my children

are sleeping and you are going to wake them up. The house is closed. Sorry but I can't get up now to give you some bread.

But, **Slide 24** you absolutely need something to eat for your friend. So you still insist.

Slide 25 Finally, your friend gets up. He will get the three loaves of bread and **Slide 26** give them to you.

But, **Slide 27** why is he giving them to you?

No! It is not because you are his friend that he gives them to you, but just **Slide 28** so that you to leave him alone.

And Jesus adds:

Slide 29 - Ask God your Father who is in heaven, **Slide 30** continue to ask and you will receive.

Slide 31 Search, persevere in your search and you will find; **Slide 32** knock, insist and the door will be open to you. **Slide 33** Because whoever asks will receive in the end; whoever seeks, will finally find and to the one who knocks insistently, the door will be opened

Slide 34 This is persevering!

Here is **Slide 35** the second story Jesus tells his disciples:

Imagine your son telling you:

Slide 36 - I'm hungry, please, **Slide 37** Daddy, give me a piece of bread.

Are you going to answer him:

- Here, my son, **Slide 38** here is a stone?

Slide 39 - No!

Imagine he said to you:

Slide 40 - Please, Daddy, give me some fish.

Are you going to answer him:

Slide 41 - Here is a snake?

Slide 42 No!

Imagine he said to you:

Slide 43 - Please, Daddy, give me an egg.

Are you going to say:

Slide 44 - Here is a scorpion?

Slide 45 No! of course!

Slide 46 Even parents who are not always good parents still know how to give their children what is necessary, **Slide 47** then will your Father, who is in heaven, not give good things to those who ask him?

Slide 48 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

We will immediately answer at the question: **Slide 49** "What does that mean: to persevere in prayer? In the story of the three friends, Jesus tells us: **Slide 50** "to ask God again and again, to insist without **Slide 51** being discouraged."

Even if the answer does not come immediately, we can continue to pray because our Father, who is in heaven, is good, Jesus told us in the second story. He wants to **Slide 52** o give us the best.

Slide 53 And sometimes the best for us is a **Slide 54** "No!" to our prayer **Slide 55** or "Hold on!".

I think you and I are going to keep praying and we will see God answer us.

Slide 56 When and how, we don't know, but... he will and when he responds to us, well, we won't forget **Slide 57** to say thank you.

Slide 58 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

Slide 59 - Mom dad! Please give me some money, I need it!

Slide 60 - Hold on! Wait a minute, I can't now!

Slide 61 - Yes! Please quick, I need it!

Who has not known these moments of impatience of children? They want everything NOW and if they are asked to wait, they get frustrated.

But we often have good reasons to keep them waiting.

And to answer is to say sometimes **Slide 62** "Yes!", **Slide 63** "No!" or **Slide 64** "Wait!".

Time allows reflection, a more accurate appreciation of situations, things, a rooting in faith. In short the teaching of life.

The Lord does his work of regeneration in us, he knows what is best for us and our children. When the answer is long overdue, Jesus' words are real encouragement.

So let's **Slide 65** persevere. Let us ask, seek, knock because Our Heavenly **Slide 66** Father who is sovereign, loves us.

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