

# Importunity in Prayer<sup>1</sup>

Nehemiah 1:6

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. Nehemiah prayed, “I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel” (1:6).
2. Jesus asked, “Will not God give justice to his elect who cry to him day and night?” (Luke 18:7).

## **DISCUSSION: Persistence in prayer is...**

### **I. Spontaneous.**

- A. When it is the expression of a real need
- B. When it is the expression of an urgent need
- C. When it is the expression of hopeful need

### **II. Significant.**

- A. When the petitioner is rightly affected by it
  1. Importunity promotes...
    - a. Tenderness
    - b. Spirituality
    - c. Humility
    - d. Zeal
  2. Prayer purifies the heart, sanctifies the will, and removes hindrances.
- B. When the answers are rightly appreciated
- C. When God’s conditions are rightly fulfilled

### **III. Scriptural.**

- A. The Bible enjoins it by explicit precepts (1 Thes. 5:17).
- B. The Bible encourages it by striking examples.

### **IV. Successful.**

- A. Nehemiah’s importunity was amply rewarded.
- B. Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9).

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. “(Men) ought always to pray and not lose heart” (cf. Luke 18:1).
2. “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thes. 5:17).

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Preacher’s Homiletic Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah*, Booth, Goodman, and Gregory, eds. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, reprinted 1974), pp. 25, 26. Edited by Andy Kizer.