

Our Helper in Prayer

[John 14:16-18](#)

[John 14:16-18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

¹⁷ *that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

One of the greatest hindrances to our prayer life is a lack of perseverance. Oftentimes we quit praying too soon. It’s easy to feel that since we’ve asked, the answer to our prayers should immediately be forthcoming or our need should quickly be met. However, God is not a bellhop, just waiting to give us exactly what we want the moment that we want it. We often have to exercise patience and continue praying.

All Christians are given the Holy Spirit to seal their relationship with God, and it is He who counsels believers on how to pray ([Romans 8:26](#)).

[Romans 8:26 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁶ “In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words.”

We sometimes believe that we need to come to God only when we have a need. However, prayer is about intimacy with the Father. If the Lord gave us whatever we wanted as soon as we asked Him, we would not be able to understand the dynamic of our relationship—and might never learn important skills like patience or dependence.

Think of the apostle Paul, who tells us that he implored three times for his “**thorn in the flesh**” to be removed before God gave him a firm answer of *no* ([2 Corinthians 12:7-8](#)).

[2 Corinthians 12:7-8 \(NASB\)](#)

⁷ “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

⁸ Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.”

This probably refers to three protracted periods of time that Paul begged for relief. When we have been praying for a long time about something and don’t feel as if our words are going anywhere, that is not the time to quit.

We have to pray through those situations. God is listening attentively to our cries, and His Spirit is our constant companion—even when we cannot “**feel**” His presence or involvement in our lives. Instead of ceasing to pray, will you call on the Holy Spirit to aid you in persevering?