

## **How Hard Are You Knocking?**

**Acts 12:12-19**

Pastor Carl Toti - July 29-30, 2017

*Acts 12:12-19 (NLT) When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. 13 He knocked at the door in the gate, and a girl named Rhoda came to open it. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" 15 "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel." 16 Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. 17 He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers what happened," he said. And then he went to another place. 18 At dawn there was a great commotion among the soldiers about what had happened to Peter. 19 Herod Agrippa ordered a thorough search for him. When he couldn't be found, Herod interrogated the guards and sentenced them to death. Afterward Herod left Judea to stay in Caesarea for a while.*

*Rhoda was a believer because...*

*(1) She recognized Peter's voice. Christians should recognize the Lord's voice.*

*(2) She rejoiced! Christians rejoice!*

*(3) She ran! Christians possess enthusiasm.*

*(4) She reported it was Peter! Christians report what we have seen and heard! The result may be the same they thought she was mad! But she persisted!*

*Luke 11:9 (AMP) So I say to you, Ask and keep on asking and it shall be given you; seek and keep on seeking and you shall find; knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you.*

### **LESSONS ON PERSISTENT PRAYER**

*(1) We don't always receive an \_\_\_\_\_ to prayer the first time we ask.*

*Luke 11:9 (AMP) "So I say to you, Ask and keep on asking and it shall be given you..."*

*(2) Answered prayer takes \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Daniel 10:12-13 (NLT) Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. 13 But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.*

*(3) In time we may discover we have been knocking on the \_\_\_\_\_ door.*

*Revelation 3:7 (NKJV) 7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":*

*(4) We knock in \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Romans 14:23 (NKJV) But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.*

*1 Corinthians 16:9 (TEV) There is a real opportunity here for great and worthwhile work, even though there are many opponents.*

**Answers:**

**1) Answer 2) Time 3) Wrong 4) Faith**