

Immersed in the Blessing pt6 – Negotiate With God

Pastor John Carmichael

[Gen 18:22-33 NASB95] 22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD. 23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep [it] away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are [treated] alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" 26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account." 27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am [but] dust and ashes. 28 "Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy [it] if I find forty-five there." 29 He spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose forty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do [it] on account of the forty." 30 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty are found there?" And He said, "I will not do [it] if I find thirty there." 31 And he said, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy [it] on account of the twenty." 32 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy [it] on account of the ten." 33 As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the LORD departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

- Can a human negotiate with God? Can God relent from doing something He said was going to happen?
- Are we just to accept what is going to happen as God's will?
- Part of the blessing on Abraham (and us Gal 3:13-14) is that He had an actual relationship with God. God would tell him something. He would stand in the presence of God and talk to Him about it.
- Many people do not understand our position with God. Even when we pray, we don't ask Him to do things for us. Guzik – our prayers our ineffective because we do not ask God to do anything.

What can we learn about praying with the blessing from Abraham's negotiation with God?

Here are five powerful truths praying with the blessing of God on us.

I. God wants us to pray in-line with His nature. V 23

- a. Abraham knew God was just and did not want to destroy Sodom.
- b. Prayers not in line with God will not be answered. [Jas 4:3 NASB95] 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend [it] on your pleasures.
- c. Holy Love. The "God is" descriptions.
- d. We pray the names of God because those names reveal His nature (Who He is and what He wants to do.)

II. God wants us to pray specifically. V 24

- a. Abraham asked God for specific numbers 50, 45, etc.
- b. Jesus asks a blind man what He wants. [Mar 10:49-52 NASB95] 49 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him [here.]" So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you." 50 Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. 51 And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, [I want] to regain my sight!" 52 And Jesus said to

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him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and [began] following Him on the road.

- c. Ask God for things as specifically as your faith will allow.

III. God wants us to pray with compassion for others. V25

- a. Abraham prayed for the wicked and the righteous. We assume he was asking for his nephew Lot, but we do not know it was limited to Lot.
- b. Abraham was blessed to be a blessing. It was just about him. [Gen 12:1-3 NASB95] 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."
- c. Scripture verses about praying for others.
 - i. [Jas 5:16 NASB95] 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
 - ii. [Job 42:10 NASB95] 10 The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold.
 - iii. [1Ti 2:1 NASB95] 1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties [and] prayers, petitions [and] thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,
 - iv. [Eph 6:18 NASB95] 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- d. [Eze 22:30-31 NASB95] 30 "I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. 31 "Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord GOD.
- e. We are called not just to live in the blessing of God, but to be a blessing.

IV. God wants us to pray with a bold humility. V27, 30

- a. Can you imagine standing before God and attempting to get Him to change something He just said?
- b. [Heb 4:16 NASB95] 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- c. [Mat 15:22-28 NASB95] 22 And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and [began] to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." 23 But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us." 24 But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and [began] to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" 26 And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 27 But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.
- d. No more weak prayers.

V. God wants us to pray persistently. V 31, 32

- a. Abraham kept negotiating with God. Why did he stop? No one knows; only guesses. He negotiated the number 6 times.

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- b.** [Luk 18:1-8 NASB95] 1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"
 - c.** Why do we quit praying? It is not a lack of faith to keep asking. In fact, faith keeps asking!!!
- Understanding how to pray with the blessing on us will cause us to pray in-line with His nature, be specific, intercede for others, be bold, and persistent.**