

# ABRAHAM: THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH

PART NINE: “I’LL MAKE YOU A BARGAIN.”

Genesis 18:16-33 ♦ Pastor Dean Lancaster ♦ June 25, 2023

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Can we bargain with God? We shouldn’t try. God has a better plan. When we follow Abraham’s interaction with God, we witness God’s power.

## Prayer is begun by God.

**Genesis 18:16–19** *When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. Then the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”*

God’s word is the revealed mind and plans of God.

We can know what to pray and how to pray through of the Word of God.

**John 6:44** *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him,*

There is nothing in us that naturally moves us towards God.

When we follow God, as Abraham did (walking with Him) God will conduct our prayers. **Genesis 18:33**

## Prayer binds our hearts to God’s heart

**Genesis 18:20–21** *Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”*

Prayer is a divine mystery.

God is looking for intercessors.

God wants us to be concerned about what He is concerned about- the souls of people.

It is important for us to remember that the prayer of faith requires previous knowledge of what God wants.

God’s three responses to the prayers He leads us to pray: Yes, No, and Wait

## Prayer requires “bold humility.”

**Genesis 18:23–33** *Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ...What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? ...Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty?... “What if only forty? ...What if only thirty?” ... “what if only twenty...” “What if only ten...”*

Notice how Abraham’s prayer breaks out of a formulaic approach and becomes personal and extemporaneous (unplanned, from the heart, human).

When we pray we must simultaneously be humble yet bold.

**Hebrews 4:16** *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

How did he obtain this bold humility? Abraham was a friend of God.

Who we know makes a difference; being a friend of God is the ultimate connection.

## Take this with you...

Prayer is not a way to make God change His mind.

However, prayer can defer judgment, speed up blessing and affect timing.

The nine most important words in the Bible concerning prayer:

“You do not have because you do not ask.”

All these aspects of prayer come to “friends” of God.

**John 15:14** *You are my friends if you do what I command.*