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The Life of Abraham—What Happens When We Pray

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*I asked for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I had asked for,
but everything that I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered;
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.*
-Unknown Confederate soldier

As Abraham was praying to God (talking to Him is Prayer), He must have counted wrong or thought maybe Lot had at least four righteous servants. At any rate, he got what he prayed for.

Gen 18:32 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy *it* for the sake of ten."

The nine word prayer that most mothers pray almost always leaves a lasting impression on children "God help you if you ever do that again".

Hopefully you and I have learned to pray better than that. Here are some biblical principles to help you with prayer.

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Prayer is spiritual communication between man and God



Biblical Principle About Praying

1. I do not have because I do not ask.

James 4:2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

2. You ask for the wrong reasons

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

So to paraphrase, I didn't get anything because I didn't ask and when I did I asked for the wrong thing.

**GOD WILL NOT GRANT ANYTHING THAT CONTRADICTS
HIS RIGHTEOUS LOVING CHARACTER**

3. God hears **GENUINE PRAYER**

Matthew 6:5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

4. Pray in Secret

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

5. Do Not Use Repetitious Prayers

Matthew 6:7-8 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. (8) "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

6. Use Jesus' Example Given to His Disciples

Matthew 6:9-13 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (10) Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. (13) And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Praying



Abraham's Prayer

God honored the motive of Abraham's petition without granting his specific request.



The Anatomy of a Prayer

1. He can say Yes to our petition and No to our motive.

Numbers 11:4-6 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? (5) We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; (6) but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

He let them know about the way they were complaining by granting their request with a diet of quail... for an entire month! You'll eat it until it's running out your ears!

Numbers 11:19-20 You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, (20) but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?" ' "

2. He can say No to our petition and Yes to our motive

Genesis 19:15-16 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." (16) And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Would You Pray This?

SINNER'S PRAYER

Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner and I need a Savior. I want to turn away from my sinful life to the life You have planned for me. Please forgive me for my sins. Cleanse me of my past, make me new. I know Your Son, Jesus Christ died for me. I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. At this very moment, I accept, confess, and proclaim Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior... to live in my heart from this day forward. Thank you Jesus for Your Grace that has saved me from my sins and has given me eternal life. Please send Your Holy Spirit to guide me, and to help me do Your will for the rest of my life, in Jesus name Amen

How Can I Go to Heaven?

1. Realize you're a sinner.

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "**THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;**

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. Know God loves you.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. God's love is through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. Confess, Believe, Accept.

Rom 10:9,10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13 For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."