

God's Got Questions!

Lesson Four • Genesis 18:16-33

The Audacity Of Prayer

God's Question: "Should I hide My plan?"

God seeks to engage us in PRAYER so that as we pray we will learn more about the heart of God!

Then the men got up from their meal and looked out toward Sodom. As they left, Abraham went with them to send them on their way. "Should I hide my plan from Abraham?" the LORD asked. Genesis 18:16-17 NLT

Lessons in the Audacity of Prayer:

1. We Think Far Too Little Of The IMPORTANCE Of Prayer!

God's Question Reveals a Profound Truth:

Prayer makes a DIFFERENCE.

2. We Are Meant To INTERCEDE As Partners With God!

What does it mean to intercede in prayer?

It means to DRAW NEAR before God on behalf of others to plead their case.

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" Genesis 18:22-23 ESV

3. We See GOD In New Ways When We Pray!

- God is HOLY, therefore no sin escapes His notice and judgment.

And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know." Genesis 18:20-21 NKJV

- God is JUST, therefore He will always do what is right.

And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." Genesis 18:23-26 NKJV

A True Picture of God:

The holy God of JUSTICE is also a holy God of GRACE.

"At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah will have a son"...Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom. Genesis 18:14, 16 NKJV

Why Pray?

Because God REMEMBERS others when "friends of God" pray!

Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, He remembered Abraham, and He brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived. Genesis 19:27-29 NIV

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in My name the Father will give you."

~Jesus, John 15:15-16 NIV