

Journey of Faith

(Part 8 – How Faith Prays)

Text: Genesis 18:16-33

Main Idea: Faith intercedes to God with humble urgency!

- Who can pray:** Only those who are in a _____ relationship with God! (v. 16-19, Rev 5:8, 8:4)
 - A relationship with God is due solely because of God's _____: "I have chosen him." (Rom 9:15-18)
 - A relationship with God is confirmed by _____ living: "...keep the way of the Lord."
- Why can we pray:** God is _____ that we should approach Him in prayer! (v. 20-21)
 - God shares _____ with only His friends. (Jn 15:15-16)
 - God _____ that the prayers of His children serve to accomplish His will.
- What should stir us to pray:** The _____ of God's Word should stir us to pray! (v. 20-21, 1 Tim 2:1-8)
- How shall we pray:** We must pray with _____ & persistence! (v. 22-33)
 - We must _____ draw near to God. (v. 23, 27)
 - We must appeal to God's _____: His *holiness* (v. 20), His *justice* (v. 23), & His *mercy*.
 - We must pray with _____ but never with presumption.
 - We must plead with _____.

Application Questions:

- Do you think God answers the prayers of unbelievers, the unrighteous? Why was it that Abraham had such access to God to even ask Him questions and continued to extend the conversation with Him? What gives you the right to even approach the throne of God? See Hebrews 4:14-16.
- When was the last time you "stood before the Lord" (v. 22) and pleaded for God's mercy for the salvation of your neighbor, friend, co-worker or family member? As a believer shouldn't you make a habitual effort to pray for the lost? (See 1 Tim 2:1-8) Who are you praying for right now?
- What principle can be gathered from the fact that God ends up sharing the secret of His will to Abraham in v. 20? Go to John 15:15-16 and see what Jesus said He was going to do for His friends? Are you the friend of Jesus? What secrets has He revealed to you in His Word?
- How did Abraham intercede? What characteristics could you use to describe his pleading with God? How could you emulate Abraham's prayer for others? Why are you not as concerned to pray as Abraham was? What do you need to do to regain a sensitive heart toward those who are going to be the recipients of God's wrath?
- Worldly people often have a skewed view of God. What does this passage teach us about the character of God? Read over v. 20, 23, & 26. What does God think about the wickedness of sin? How does God view those who are righteous? What made Abraham so urgent to pray? Why are you not urgent and committed to pray for those in your life who are lost? Do you believe hell to be real?