

The Prayers of Abraham

Abram' Call - Prayer Goes in Either Direction

12 Now the Lord said to Abram,

“Go 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 into a great nation,

And I will bless you,

And make your name great;

And *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.”

⁴ So Abram went *away* as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him.

Genesis 12:1-4 NASB

Abram Promised a Son - Prayer Provides Clarity

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying,

“Do not fear, Abram,

I am a shield to you;

Your reward shall be very great.”

² But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ Abram also said, “Since You have given me no son, one who has been born in my house is my heir.” ⁴ Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.” ⁵ And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ Then he believed in the Lord; and He credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:1-6 NASB

Abraham Appeals for Sodom – Prayer is to Benefit Others

16 Then the men rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom; and Abraham was walking with them to send them off. **17** The Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, **18** since Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? **19** For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” **20** And the Lord said, “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. **21** I will go down now and see whether they have done entirely as the outcry, which has come to Me *indicates*; and if not, I will know.”

22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the Lord. **23** Abraham approached and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? **24** Suppose there are fifty righteous people 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 kill 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 entire place on their account.”²⁷ And Abraham replied, “Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am *only* dust and ashes.”²⁸ Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the entire city because of five?” And He said, “I will not destroy *it* if I find forty-five there.”²⁹ And 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.

Genesis 18:16-33 NASB

Abraham and Abimelech - Prayer is for Believer and Unbeliever

20 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he lived for a time in Gerar.² And Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” So Abimelech king of Gerar sent *men* and took Sarah.³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married.”⁴ Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, “Lord, will You kill a nation, even *though* blameless?”⁵ Did he himself not say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.”⁷ Now then, return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return *her*, know that you will certainly die, you and all who are yours.”⁸ So Abimelech got up early in the morning and called all his servants, and told all these things in their presence; and the people were greatly frightened.⁹ Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”¹⁰ And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?”¹¹ Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.”¹² Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife;¹³ and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said to her, ‘This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother.”’”¹⁴ Abimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned his wife Sarah to him.¹⁵ Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please.”¹⁶ To Sarah he said, “Look, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is your vindication before all who are with you, and before everyone you are cleared.”¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his female slaves, so that they gave birth *to children*.¹⁸ For the Lord had completely closed all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham’s wife.

Genesis 20 NASB