

The God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob: Interceding Like Abraham
The God Who Hears Those Who Stand in the Gap
Dr. John Carmichael

[Mat 22:31-32 NASB95] 31 "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: 32 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

[Act 3:13 NASB95] 13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, [the one] whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.

[Act 7:31-32 NASB95] 31 "When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look [more] closely, there came the voice of the Lord: 32 'I AM THE GOD OF YOUR FATHERS, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC AND JACOB.' Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look.

[Gen 18:22-33 NASB95] 22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD. 23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous 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 slay 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 whole place on their account." 27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am [but] dust and ashes. 28 "Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy [it] if I find forty-five there." 29 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.

- Prayer is more than bringing our needs before God—it is carrying the burdens of others into His presence. Throughout Scripture, God has always searched for men and women who would stand in the gap. Abraham became one of history's greatest intercessors when he pleaded with God on behalf of Sodom. Although the city deserved judgment, Abraham appealed to God's mercy.
- His prayer teaches us that intercession is not passive. It is courageous, persistent, compassionate, and powerful. The same Holy Spirit who empowered Abraham to pray is calling the Church today to stand before God for families, cities, nations, and revival.

What characteristics of Abraham's intercession made him such a powerful example for every believer?

As we examine Abraham's conversation with God, we discover five qualities that every Spirit-filled intercessor should cultivate.

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I. Cultivating a Friendship with God Creates Confidence in Prayer

- a. [Gen 18:17-19 NASB95] 17 The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 since Abraham will surely 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."
- b. [Jas 2:23 NASB95] 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.
- c. [Heb 4:16 NASB95] 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- d. Abraham did not approach God as a stranger but as a friend. His relationship with God gave him confidence to enter God's presence.
- e. God shared His plans with Abraham because intimacy always precedes partnership.
- f. Application: Our effectiveness in public intercession is determined by our private relationship with God. Spend daily time in God's presence so that prayer becomes a conversation rather than merely a request list.

II. Learn How to Boldly Approach God

- a. [Gen 18:23-25 NASB95] 23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous 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 slay 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?"
- b. [Heb 10:19-22 NASB95] 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since [we have] a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled [clean] from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
- c. [Eph 3:12 NASB95] 12 in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.
- d. Abraham respectfully but courageously appealed to God's justice and mercy.
- e. Boldness in prayer is not arrogance; it is confidence in God's character.
- f. Pentecostal believers have been given access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to pray with confidence.
- g. Application: Do not allow fear, guilt, or intimidation to keep you from praying boldly for impossible situations. Pray according to God's promises instead of your limitations.

III. Practice Praying Persistently

- a. [Gen 18:27-32 NASB95] 27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am [but] dust and ashes. 28 "Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy [it] if I find forty-five there." 29 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

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- b. [Luk 18:1-8 NASB95] 1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, 2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. 3 "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; 7 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? 8 "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"
- c. [1Th 5:17 NASB95] 17 pray without ceasing;
- d. Abraham continued asking.
- e. He prayed... for fifty, forty-five, forty, thirty, twenty, and finally ten.
- f. He refused to quit too soon.
- g. Persistence demonstrates faith rather than unbelief.
- h. Application: Don't stop praying because you have not yet seen results. Continue interceding for your children, spouse, church, and community until God answers.

IV. Pray for People Who Do Not Deserve Mercy

- a. [Gen 18:26-32 NASB95] 26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account." 27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am [but] dust and ashes. 28 "Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy [it] if I find forty-five there." 29 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."
- b. [Mat 5:44 NASB95] 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
- c. [Rom 5:8 NASB95] 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- d. [Rom 12:14 NASB95] 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- e. The people of Sodom were wicked, yet Abraham pleaded for them.
- f. Intercession sees people through the eyes of God's mercy rather than merely through the lens of their sin.
- g. The heart of God is always to redeem before He judges.
- h. Application: Instead of criticizing those far from God, begin praying for them. Replace frustration with compassion. Pray for prodigals, difficult family members, hostile coworkers, and those who oppose the Gospel.

V. Believe That Intercession Can Change Outcomes

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- a. [Gen 19:29 NASB95] 29 Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived.
- b. [Eze 22:30 NASB95] 30 "I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.
- c. [Jas 5:16-18 NASB95] 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. 18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.
- d. Although Sodom was judged, Lot was rescued because "God remembered Abraham."
- e. Intercession matters. The right result is not always guaranteed, it is powerful.
- f. God works through praying people. If anyone can influence someone, it is God. [Act 26:14 NASB95] 14 "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'
- g. Throughout Scripture, history changed when someone stood in the gap: Moses spared Israel. Samuel prayed for the nation. Elijah prayed until rain came. The early Church prayed until prison doors opened.
- h. The Holy Spirit continues calling believers into this ministry today.
- i. Application: Commit yourself to becoming an intercessor. Keep a prayer journal. Develop a list of people to pray for daily. Join corporate prayer gatherings and become someone God can trust to stand in the gap.

- **Friendship with God produces courageous, persistent intercession that releases His mercy and power into the lives of others.**
- Abraham's greatest legacy was not merely that he believed God for a son—it was that he loved others enough to stand before God on their behalf.
- Our world desperately needs believers who will pray instead of panic, intercede instead of criticize, and seek revival instead of surrendering to darkness.
- The greatest revivals in history were preceded by people who stood before God like Abraham.
- May North Church become known not merely for great worship and biblical preaching, but for becoming a house of powerful intercession where heaven touches earth.
- Gather around the altar with the names of someone you are believing God to save or restore.