

The God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob: The God Who Answers Specific Prayers

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 24:26-27 NASB95] 26 Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD. 27 He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers."

- Genesis 24 records one of the longest chapters in the book of Genesis, and it centers around a prayer meeting at a well.
- Abraham was concerned that Isaac marry within God's covenant people. He sent his trusted servant on a mission that would determine the future of the covenant family. The servant faced an impossible task. He did not know the woman, the family, or the city. Yet before he made a move, he prayed.
- What happened next was not luck, coincidence, or chance. It was the God of Abraham answering a specific prayer with a specific answer.
- The same God still guides His people today. He is not only interested in where we spend eternity; He is interested in the decisions we make tomorrow morning.

How does the story of Abraham's servant teach us to receive God's direction through specific prayer?

Genesis 24 reveals four powerful principles about the God who answers specific prayers.

I. He Prayed Before He Acted

- a. **[Gen 24:12 NASB95] 12 He said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.**
- b. The servant's first response was not planning, networking, or strategizing—it was prayer.
- c. Before he searched, he prayed. Before he spoke, he prayed. Before he decided, he prayed. Before he acted, he sought God.
- d. Too often we make decisions and then ask God to bless them. The servant sought God's direction before taking action.
- e. **[Neh 1:11 NASB95] 11 "O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man." Now I was the cupbearer to the king.**
- f. Application: The Holy Spirit was given to lead believers. The Spirit guides. The Spirit directs. The Spirit warns. The Spirit confirms.

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- g. Prayer is not our last resort; it is our first response. The safest decisions are made in the presence of God.

II. He Prayed Specifically

- a. [Gen 24:13-14 NASB95] 13 "Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; 14 now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'--[may] she [be the one] whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master."
- b. The servant did not simply pray, "Lord, help me."
- c. He asked for something measurable and identifiable.
- d. He prayed: Let her offer me water. Let her offer water to my camels. Let this be the woman You have chosen.
- e. This was not manipulation. This was faith seeking divine guidance.
- f. Many believers pray general prayers and wonder why they struggle to recognize answers.
- g. Specific prayers create clear expectations. Specific prayers produce recognizable answers. Specific prayers build faith.
- h. Biblical Examples: Hannah prayed for a son. Elijah prayed for rain. Jabez prayed for enlargement. Blind Bartimaeus prayed for sight.
- i. [Mar 10:51 NASB95] 51 And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, [I want] to regain my sight!"
- j. Application: The Holy Spirit still gives wisdom regarding: Marriage decisions; Family decisions; Ministry opportunities; Career choices; Major life transitions
- k. A God who knows every detail is not offended by detailed prayers.

III. God Answered Quickly

- a. [Gen 24:15 NASB95] 15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder.
- b. What a verse!
- c. Before the prayer was completed, the answer was already walking toward him.
- d. Rebekah arrived at the exact moment. The right person. The right family. The right place. The right time.
- e. God was already working before the servant began praying.
- f. Sometimes answers come immediately. Sometimes answers come gradually. Sometimes answers come after a long season of waiting. But in every case, God is working before we see the answer.
- g. [Isa 65:24 NASB95] 24 "It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.
- h. [Dan 9:21-23 NASB95] 21 while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in [my] extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. 22 He gave [me] instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding. 23 "At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell [you,] for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.
- i. God often begins answering before we finish asking.

IV. God's Answers Confirm His Direction

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- a. [Gen 24:26-27 NASB95] 26 Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD. 27 He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers."
 - b. The answer confirmed God's guidance. God did not merely provide information; He provided confirmation.
 - c. Throughout Scripture, God confirms His will.
 - d. [Mar 16:20 NASB95] 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.][[And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]]
 - e. God is not trying to hide His will from His children.
 - f. He delights in leading those who seek Him.
 - g. When God guides, He also confirms.
- **When we seek God first, pray specifically, and follow His leading, He faithfully directs our steps according to His purpose.**
 - Don't just ask God to bless your plans. Ask God to reveal His plans and then follow them wherever He leads.
 - Pray for guidance, direction, and confirmation.