



S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

A Prayer That Moves God

Genesis 18:20-33

NOTES INTRODUCTION In today's key passage of Genesis 18 we see not just the significance of Abraham's promise, but also the strength of Abraham's prayer. Of the 650 prayers recorded in the Bible, there can be no question that this specific prayer stands in a category all by itself. It is a dialogue between a desperate man and a determined God concerning the fate of a community that departed from God's will and God's way. It is a marvelous picture of what happens when believers go to God in prayer. In it, Abraham makes audacious appeal to God to save his family, and he models for us what happens when you walk with God in faith and live in His power. Abraham had access to the throne room of heaven to ask what he wanted of God, in prayer. So in today's message, we are going to learn how we can follow Abraham's example in our own prayer life and see God move as we pray to Him. **KEY POINTS** 1. Pray With A Sense Of Burden While God may allow good people to suffer tragedy, disaster, or the diabolical deeds of others, God will not himself punish those who are unworthy of such a penalty. That would be inconsistent with His character. It is not the will of God that any man shall persist, and so Abraham raises his hand, and lifts his voice to speak on behalf of those who could not speak for themselves. He questioned God with a burdened heart. So many people fail to get what they want in life, because they just "kinda want it." They don't want it bad enough. If you want to change the heart of God, he wants to know that it means something to you. Next time you go before the throne, go to God with a sense of burden! 2. Pray With Boldness Like a child begging his parents for something, Abraham goes to God pleading with God to reconsider the terms of his decision. His reverence for God does not prevent him from approaching God with boldness. Verse 23 tells us that angels left, Abraham remained there standing before the Lord and when he did so, He came closer.

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NOTES That is a bold move, to literally confront the God of heaven over a decision He made to destroy a community. He shows us that if our prayers are going to shift heaven, if our prayers are going to move God, then we've got to come to God boldly. 3. Pray With Humility Boldness in prayer should never be confused with brazenness. Prayers that move God are not prayers that offend Him. You must pray to God with honor and humility. We cannot tell God what to do. We cannot demand that God give us our desire. We are to make our requests known to Him, but must realize that how our prayers are answered is totally up to God. Pray with a sense of burden. Be sincere and honest. Be bold. But also be humble. Come to the all powerful God with humility. Remember, God does as He sees fit. But His ways are always in your best interest! 4. Pray With Persistence Abraham was so determined to make his case to God that he continued the course, appealing to God for mercy. In other words, Abraham prayed, but did not stop praying. He appealed to God, and he kept asking until he got what he came for. Sometimes God waits because he wants to see how bad you want what you are asking for. God does not always give us what we want right after we ask the first time. Then how valuable would it be? If we did not have to wait, we did not have to pray with persistence. God wants to see you continue to ask for what you want, just as Abraham did. If you want to move God's heart in prayer, you have a need or desire and you acknowledge God is the only one who can make it happen, pray to him.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	Would you consider yourself someone who prays with boldness? If not, what
	is keeping you from praying bold prayers?

- 2. How would you define what it looks like to pray with humility?
- 3. What is something you prayed for persistently and then you saw God answer that prayer? What can you learn from that experience?

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