

3. How we can get what Abraham had with God?

Abraham knew there must be a way, for a righteous God to accept unrighteous people.

Here's the key, even knowing that fact was enough to give Abraham this incredible, vital relationship with God,

We have the gospel. Once you have that, you can have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ far livelier than even Abraham.

There are four ways. that the Gospel impacts us:

First, if you understand the gospel, that you are so lost God had to die for you on the cross, yet **secondly**, you're so loved God was glad to die for you.

The first way, humbles you, the second way, emboldens you.

Thirdly, the gospel gives you an attitude toward the world around you that Abraham had, namely a seeking mercy.

The gospel is not that the good are in and the bad are out.
The gospel is that the humble who admit they're evil are in and the proud who won't admit they're evil are out.

Fourthly, Ask God for big things.

Abraham kept coming back and coming back and coming back and saying, "I want more, I want more, I want more."

Lot did get out, and the Bible says in chapter 19:29 God did it because Abraham made this prayer.

This passage says, "Be bold. Pester God with his own Word, with his own attributes. Go after him."



How Mercy Should Mark Our Prayers

Genesis 18:16-33

In all of the Bible there is nothing quite like it. In these verses Abraham is negotiating with God over the fate of Sodom and its inhabitants.

1. How Abraham prayed

vs. 17 I wonder if I should hide from Abraham what I am about to do.

- **1st thing** we see: It doesn't start with Abraham talking; it starts with God speaking.
- **2nd thing** we see is it's an intimate dialogue.

Who's he praying for?

vs.20, "There has been an outcry against Sodom."

vs.24, "Would you Spare them based on 50 righteous people living there?."

2. Why is he able to pray like this, what is the secret?

There are two assumptions about God that Abraham seeks to qualify in this dialogue.

First Assumption: God is a God of Justice (see Vs. 25)

Second Assumption: God is a God of Grace (see vs. 18)

If there *is* a God of justice and righteousness, what hope is there for you and me, because who can stand before Him?

"Jesus Christ is our great High Priest. He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through him, for he ever lives to intercede for them."
Hebrews 7:24,25

Genesis Chapter 18 Verses 16-33

At that point, the three men set off *on foot* toward Sodom, and Abraham walked with them to start them on their way.

Eternal One (*to the other two men*): 17 I wonder if I should hide from Abraham what I am about to do. 18 After all, Abraham will become *the father of a great and powerful nation*, and all the other nations of the earth will find their blessing in him. 19 I have chosen him *for a reason, namely* that he will carefully instruct his children and his household *to keep themselves strong in relationship to Me and to walk in My ways* by doing what is *good and right* in the world and by showing *mercy and justice to all others*. *I know he will uphold his end of the covenant*, so that he can ensure My promises to him will be fulfilled and upheld as well. 20 (continuing *so Abraham could hear*) *I have heard terrible things*—urgent and outraged calls *for help*—coming from *the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah*, and their sin has become a serious problem. 21 I must go down and see *for Myself* whether the outcries against them that My ears have heard are really true. If not, I will know.

22 At this point the men turned and headed toward Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Eternal One. 23 Then Abraham approached Him *solemnly and pled for the city*.

Abraham (*to God*): *God*, would You really sweep away the people who do what is right along with those who are wicked? 24 What if there were 50 upright people within the city? Would You still wipe the place out and not spare it on behalf of the 50 upright people who live there?

25 Surely it can't be Your nature to do something like that—to kill the right-living along with those who act wickedly, to consign the innocent to the same fate as the guilty. It is inconceivable to me that You, *my God*, would do anything like that! Will not the "*Merciful and Loving Judge*" of all the earth do what is just?

Eternal One: 26 If I find 50 good and true people in the city of Sodom, *I give you My word* I will spare the entire city on their behalf.

Abraham (*emboldened*): 27 Look, I know I am just *a human being*, scooped from the dust and ashes *of the earth*, but if I might implore You, Lord, a bit further: 28 What if the city lacked 5 of those 50 right-living people? *What then?* Would You destroy the entire city because it lacked those 5?

Eternal One: I won't destroy the city if I find 45 *good and true people* there.

Abraham (*persisting*): 29 Suppose 40 are found there.

Eternal One: I won't destroy the city for the sake of 40.

Abraham: 30 Please don't be angry, Lord, *at my boldness*. Let me ask this: What if You found 30 there *who are good and true*?

Eternal One: I will not do it, even if I find only 30 there.

Abraham: 31 Since I have implored the Lord this far, *may I ask*: What if there were 20?

Eternal One: For the sake of 20, I will not destroy the city.

Abraham: 32 Please don't be angry, Lord, *at my boldness*. Let me ask this just once more: suppose only 10 are found?

Eternal One: For the sake of only 10, I still will not destroy it.

33 When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.