



Class 2, April 24

Class Goal: The disciples asked Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray!” (Luke 11:1) It is a natural desire of believers to communicate with God. We will study the great prayers of the Bible so that we also know how to pray!

Prayers of Abram (Abraham)

Abraham was the father of the Hebrews. Many times, God spoke to him (a spoken voice, an inner voice, a vision, an angel, a person?) and he spoke to God. Here are some key prayers in Abraham’s life:

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him. (Genesis 12:1-4a, NIV)

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. (Genesis 12:6-7, NIV)

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward!” But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (Gen. 15:1-6)

The final prayer I will discuss is too long to put here in its entirety. We will read it in Genesis 18:23-33. God had decided to punish the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham very boldly negotiated with God to save the people of those towns.

Do You Want God to Grant Your Prayer? Lessons from Abraham

We see many lessons we can learn from the very powerful prayer life of Abraham. What characteristics can we learn from him if we also want to have a powerful prayer life?

1. W _____ .

Abraham and his family were essentially nomads, but wherever he went, he built an a _____ (12:7, 13:4, 13:18), which was a place of sacrifice, worship, and prayer—for him and for the family. “Abraham did not leave his religion behind him, as many do, when they travel.” Lockyer, page 21)

2. O _____ .

Abraham was clearly not a perfect man, but when God spoke to him, he did what God told him to do—even when to obey was challenging and difficult. Genesis 12:4 is easy to pass over but it shows his character, “So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.”

3. F _____ .

Abraham believed that God’s words would come true. Genesis 15:6 is a key verse “Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6) It was quoted by Paul in Romans 4 and Galatians 3 to show that salvation is by faith, and in James 2 in discussing the relationship of faith and works.

4. B _____ .

Abraham—especially as he grew in his faith—did not fail to pray specifically and with great courage. He asked for a son. And his negotiation with God in Chapter 18 is an incredible example of his willingness to go beyond the “standard” form of ritual prayer.

5. C _____ .

Genesis 18 also shows Abraham’s heart for his family (Lot) and for the people of a town. It would be easy to be angry with the disobedient, but Abraham showed another side.