

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Abraham's Prayer Life

Genesis 12:1-20 Now the LORD said to Abram, "**Go forth** from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, **to the land which I will show you**; ² And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Abraham obeys the command of the Lord.

⁴ So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar [*worship*] there to the LORD who had appeared to him. ⁸ Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD [*a prayer*]. ⁹ Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

God always tests the faith of the believer - -

¹⁰ Now there was a **famine** in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; ¹² and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ "Please say that you are my sister [*Abraham gets involved in the arrogance skill of self-justification because he fails to trust God*] so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you." ¹⁴ It came about when Abram came into Egypt; the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels.

Isn't Abraham right where the Lord had led him? YES.

Despite what Abraham sees - - *adversity in the form of famine* - - he has to **trust**.

The leading of the Holy Spirit must be so real to you in your soul that you are able to withstand the tests that WILL occur in the place that God has led you to.

The Lord takes care of Abraham even with his lack of faith - -

¹⁷ But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸ Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ "Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go." ²⁰ Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.

God always functions with GRACE - -

Genesis 13:2-4 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place **where his tent had been at the beginning**, between Bethel and Ai, to

[the place of the altar which he had made there formerly](#) [God moves Abraham back to where he started!]; and there Abram [called on the name of the LORD](#) [a prayer].

vs. 18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD [worship].

Sarai and Hagar - -

Genesis 16:1-2 Now Sarai, Abram's wife had [borne him no children](#), and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. .

Abraham offers up a prayer request regarding Ishmael - -

Genesis 17:18 And Abraham said to God, "[Oh that Ishmael might live before You!](#)"

And God answers Abraham - -

vs. 20 "As for Ishmael, **I have heard you**; behold, [I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly](#). He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

Be careful what you pray for!

Abraham petitions the Lord once again - -

Genesis 18:1-5 Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. ² When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth, ³ and said [praying to the Lord], "My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, [please do not pass Your servant by](#). ⁴ "Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree; ⁵ and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant." And they said, "So do, as you have said."

Abraham learns about God's plan to destroy Sodom - -

Genesis 18:23-25 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?](#)"

Abraham is building a case for God in prayer.

Abraham is interceding on behalf of the righteous.

In prayer, you have a hold on God because His word binds Him to listen to your prayer request when you follow the protocol [He has established](#).

The infinite and eternal God - Creator of the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1) – actually listens to your prayer.

Abraham repeats his mistake (as if WE never do that!!!) - -

Genesis 20:1-2 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. ² [Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister."](#) So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Abraham prays. God answers - -

Genesis 20:17-18 Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech and his wife and his maids, so that they bore children. ¹⁸ For the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Abraham in distress - -

Genesis 21:11-12 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.

vs. 33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he **called on the name of the LORD** [*another prayer request*], the Everlasting God.

The ultimate test of faith in Abraham's life - -

Genesis 22:9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar [*worship*] there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

vs. 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Chapter 23 – The death of Sarah

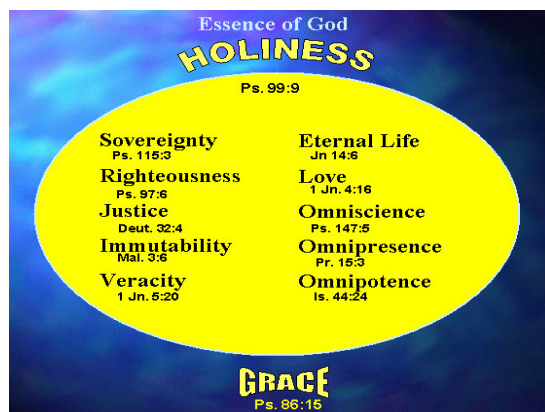
Abraham finds a wife for his son (Isaac) - -

Genesis 24:1-2 Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way. ² Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, "Please place your hand under my thigh [*a contract*],

Genesis 24:10-25 Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² He said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, **please grant me success today** [*the prayer of the servant is preceding what he does!*], and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.

Shouldn't prayer precede EVERYTHING we do?

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."



**This man is trusting in a sovereign and omnipotent God with his prayer!
He has an awareness of God's ability to direct events and circumstances in his life.**

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. ¹⁶ The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had had relations with her; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar." ¹⁸ She said, "Drink, my lord"; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking." ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not. ²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold, ²³ and said, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father's house?" ²⁴ She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor." ²⁵ Again she said to him, "We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in."

vs. 26 Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD [*the servant is grateful to God for answered prayer*].

Don't neglect being thankful for prayers that are answered!

vs. 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."

vs. 52 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the LORD.

- **Where do you think this man learned to pray?**
 - ✓ From his master – Abraham
- **Abraham had a wonderful relationship with the Lord.**
 - ✓ Abraham failed like all of us do.
 - ✓ Abraham was successful at times, also.
 - ✓ Abraham kept moving forward . . . he kept on praying.

Genesis 25:7-8 These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, one hundred and seventy-five years. ⁸ Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and **satisfied** with life; and he was gathered to his people.

"Satisfied" - שָׂבֵעַ – **SABEA** – "Satisfied or content"

Prayer sets God in motion to accomplish what you cannot do yourself!

When you choose to pray you are *seizing opportunities*.

When you pray it glorifies God . . . it honors Him!

Prayer is a demonstration of your faith that He is capable to do that which you are requesting!

Observations on Prayer:

1. Prayer is of paramount importance throughout the life of the born again believer.
2. Prayer actuates God to accomplish for the believer what he cannot *and* is required to do all that God wants him to do.
 - a. You cannot live your life without prayer.

3. The destiny of people is born in the intercessory work of others.

As war is work for the soldier, so prayer is work for the Christian.

a. Abraham interceded for Ishmael's destiny (**Genesis 17:18 cf. 20**).

b. Abraham interceded for Abimelech and God healed him (**Genesis 20:17**).

4. A life of prayer will result in fulfilling the principle of *Carpe Occasio*.

Carpe Occasio – to seize opportunity to pray

5. A life of *Carpe Occasio* in prayer results in contentment at the end of one's days (**Genesis 25:8**).

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.