

Abraham and Prayer of Faith

Genesis 18

How should the man or woman of God respond to the threat of God's righteous judgment?

Outline

- I. Abraham demonstrated practical _____ (1-8).
- II. Abraham received privileged _____ (9-22).
- III. Abraham expressed prayerful _____ (23-33).

Application

1. We should respond to apocalyptic revelation with _____ (2 Chron 7:14) and _____ (2 Pet 3:10-13).
2. We should have a high view of the _____ of God (Gen 18:14) and the _____ of God (Gen 18:25).

Unbelief is not a misfortune to be pitied; it is a sin to be deplored. Its sinfulness lies in the fact that it contradicts the word of the one true God and thus attributes falsehood to Him. - John Stott

God made water flow from a rock in the wilderness, yet the people doubted that He could furnish bread. Although He rained manna from heaven, they questioned whether He could furnish flesh. "Is anything to hard for the LORD?" is one of the great rhetorical questions in the Bible, and it deserves a response from everyone who hears it. Let's try it now: "Is anything to hard for the LORD?" No!

- Donald Grey Barnhouse

It was in studying Genesis 18 that George Mueller of Bristol, England claimed to have learned one of the most important secrets of prayer. George Mueller, one of the modern giants of prayer and faith, explained that this very Scripture (Gen 18) taught him to use argument to plead his case before God. He would remind the Lord that the orphan boys and girls entrusted to his care were not his orphans, they were God's. Had God not declared Himself to be the Father to the fatherless? It was God's work, not Mueller's. He was but the instrument. If it were God's work, was not God bound to take care of it? Could God suffer His glory to be diminished? Was not a half-believing church and a wholly unbelieving world looking on? Must not God silence the jibing tongue? Must He not silence the scoffer and the skeptic? Thus George Mueller prayed and thus he received truly astonishing answers from God. And thus Abraham prayed, besieging his heavenly visitor with plea after plea. - John Phillips