

**Hopewell ARP, Culleoka, TN**  
**2019.12.15 Morning Sermon**

**SERMON TEXT: Genesis 24:10-21**

**SERMON TITLE: How Faith Prays: with Action, Worship, and Trust**

**Main idea:** Believers are to pray with action (as just one of the means that God has called us to use), with worship (honoring God for Who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised), and with trust (that God cares to hear us, that God acts in response to prayer, and that God's answer is wiser than what we ask).

**Introduction:** Why an extended recording of what the servant says in his heart (cf. v45)? Scripture teaches that the true children of Abraham are those who live by the same faith in Jesus that Abraham had. As we observe Abraham's most trusted servant praying in this passage, we may learn about how those with such faith pray.

1. Faith prays **with action**

"I prayed about it" is necessary, but it is not a substitute for "what does God say to do about it, or what has God enabled me to do about it." Yes, the man is asking God to rule and overrule and even give him a sign. But, the man also has supplies, and puts forth effort, and comes up with a plan, and carries it out. He loads ten camels. He makes the long journey. He selects a particular place (the well) at the particular city (of Nahor) at an advantageous time (evening) based upon research (the time when women go out to draw water).

Prayer is not a passive thing, where he just sits and waits and talks in his head. It is a component of vigorously employing the means that God has given him, while acknowledging from his heart that it is God alone who can make those means fruitful to the desired end. And prayer itself has a central place among those means!

2. Faith prays **with worship**. The servant acknowledges who God is, and that God has made a special relationship with Abraham. As he asks God to do what is needed to keep those promises, he is honoring God by treating Him according to **who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised**. The servant's prayer is an act of worship.

- a. **Who God is**. "Yahweh God." The one, true, living God. Different from all the false idols.
- b. **What God has done**. Specifically, whom He has made us to be unto Him (especially by pleading Christ). "God of my master, Abraham." God has chosen Abraham, taken him to the promised land, and entered into a special relationship with him. Now, that special relationship extends to Abraham's servant, and of course to Abraham's son.

In Scripture, the Lord Jesus is the greatest of all chosen ones, the GREAT chosen One, the Christ! And what God has done in all history, and in each

believer's life, has been especially to extend His relationship with His Son, to us as those who belong to the Son. He is, as the Scripture sometimes says, "The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." When we come to Him in prayer, we come through this glorious covenant-relationship into which God has brought us. We come to God through Christ and ask that for His sake our prayers would be heard unto His glory. This is what it means to come in Jesus's name.

- c. **What God has promised.** Because God has made promises to His Son, and to us in Him, we are to pray especially for things that are in keeping with those promises. In this case, the servant is praying for something that is not just in keeping with God's covenant with Abraham, but is absolutely necessary—a wife for the one through whom the covenant Seed has been promised to come! Where the NKJV twice talks about showing "kindness" to his master Abraham, the word that the servant uses is *ḵessed*—covenant love.

We too must learn to pray for those things that are in keeping with God's promises to Christ, and to us in Christ. We too must learn to make our pleas based upon God's covenanted love, in which He faithfully keeps all of His promises.

### 3. Faith prays **with trust**

- a. That God cares to hear us. Faith "**makes things known**" to God
  - i. Our circumstances
  - ii. Our requests
- b. That God acts (and is already acting!) in response to prayer
- c. That God rules wisely: Faith **defers to God's will and wisdom**

**Conclusion:** God grant that our prayer life would continually learn and practice what it means to pray in Jesus' name.