

Prayer that Prevails
Genesis 18:20-33

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Main Idea: Prayer is a means by which, through Christ, God gives us participation in Him and His work, despite our weakness and sin.

Introduction: although we recognized in v19 the importance of understanding the “division of labor” between God and ourselves, we must also recognize that when the Lord tells us about His work in His word, or allows us to learn of it occurring in His world, there is a participation into which He is calling us: prayer.

1. The Power of Prayer: who God is.

- a. The God who has known us. v19, John 16:19-28.
- b. The God who sees and hears everything. v21, Psalm 139.
- c. The God who is making sinners righteous from all the families of the earth. v23, 1Timothy 2:1-9. Feet firmly planted on earth, but laying hold of heaven with both hands.

2. The Privilege of Prayer: who we are.

- a. Dust and ashes, v27—creatures who are subject to death and wrath
- b. Yet known by God, v19
 - i. Recipients of God’s Word
 - ii. Righteous through Jesus, James 5:16
 - iii. Participants in His work—not resisting His unwillingness, but laying hold of His mercy

3. The Pattern of Prayer: how we are to do it.

- a. With confidence in God
- b. With submission to God
- c. In dependence upon God
- d. According to God’s Word
- e. With mercy-inspired boldness and persistence
- f. With humility about ourselves

Conclusion: The perfect Pray-er. The One who prays perfectly for us and all things is the risen, ascended Lord Jesus Christ. With full knowledge and confidence and perfect consistency with God’s Word. And perfect humility and submission, even though equality with God is His (Phil 2). He continually lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25). And One of the things for which the One Mediator between God and man perfectly prays is that we would be shaped more and more like Him—ourselves becoming those whose lives are a continual offering up of prayer that prevails.