

**Abraham Was Visited by God Himself:
The Steps to Becoming an Intercessor, a Prayer Warrior
Genesis 18:16–33**

1. *Abraham yearned to walk with God, longed for His presence*

- a. The men looked,
walked toward Sodom
- b. Abraham joined them

2. *Abraham thought of God's great call and purpose for his life*

- a. Abraham was led to think of His call and purpose
- b. Abraham was led to think of His duty
 - 1) His duty to teach the way of the LORD
 - 2) His duty to teach what is right and just
- c. Abraham was led to think of faithfulness and of reward

3. *Abraham sensed the pain of God's heart over wickedness*

- a. Because the righteous outcry against sin is great:
Against Sodom and Gomorrah
- b. Because of impending judgment:
The cities — all persons — must be examined and judged

4. *Abraham stood boldly before the LORD in prayer — refusing to leave the LORD's presence*

16 When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way.

17 Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?"

18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

20 Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous

21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

- a. Abraham drew near God
- b. Abraham expressed concern for the righteous: Asked God to spare the city if fifty righteous people were found there
- c. Abraham acknowledged that God is just and righteous
- d. God answered Abraham's prayer

5. *Abraham laid hold of the open access (door) into God's presence*

- a. Abraham acknowledged his unworthiness
- b. Abraham asked God to spare the city if forty-five righteous persons were found
- c. God continued to answer his prayer

6. *Abraham continued to pray and beseech God, praying on and on and never giving up: If forty righteous people were found*

7. *Abraham persevered in concern and prayer*

- a. Abraham persevered meekly: Pleaded for God not to be angry but to continue hearing his prayer

- 23 Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"
- 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?
- 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing — to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"
- 26 The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."
- 27 Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,
- 28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."
- 29 Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."
- 30 Then he said, "May the LORD not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

1) Asked God to spare the city
for thirty righteous people

2) God answered His prayer

b. Abraham persevered boldly

1) Asked God for the city
if twenty righteous persons
were found

2) God answered his prayer

c. Abraham persevered
until the end, one more time

1) Asked God for ten
righteous persons

2) God answered his prayer

3) The communion,
intercession ended

31 Abraham said,

“Now that I have been so bold
as to speak to the LORD,
what if only twenty can be found there?”
He said, “For the sake of twenty,
I will not destroy it.”

32 Then he said,

“May the LORD not be angry,
but let me speak just once more.
What if only ten can be found there?”
He answered, “For the sake of ten,
I will not destroy it.”

33 When the LORD had finished speaking
with Abraham, he left,
and Abraham returned home.