

In Genesis 18:17–33. Abraham “approached” God and said, “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?” As a confidant and friend he stood before the Lord reasoning with him regarding Sodom and Gomorrah. He spoke repeatedly to the Lord, each time asking greater mercy, and God did not refuse one of his requests! It was only when Abraham stopped asking that the Lord ceased.

Moses pleaded with God not to destroy the Israelites after God had already determined to destroy them. God said, *“Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them.”* (Ex. 32:10)

It’s amazing to read that Moses reasoned with God, using arguments that might be heard in a court of law, and reminding God what He had already done and said. In other words, His will. Moses was persistent.

*But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” **Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.***  
Exodus 32:11–14

Even after God relented and Moses gained everything, he still asked God for more, *“Now show me Your Glory!”* Then read all that God gave him! (Ex. 33:12–19, 34:5–10)

If you need encouragement about persistent praying in spite of the circumstances, Luke 18 is the answer. *“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’*

*“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”*

*And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”*

When we get discouraged from months and even years of praying the same prayer, we might want to stop. Don’t ever do it! Jesus tells us never to stop! Don’t focus on the impossible circumstances, but rather the ability of God to do the impossible. *Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”* Luke 18:28

It may be that God is increasing your faith in the meantime.

Consider also the man whom Jesus commended for his persistence.

Then Jesus said to them, *“Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. Luke 11:5–8*

Jesus wants us to persist in prayer in storming the gates of heaven! *“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Luke 11:9–10)*

He’s telling us to persist and not give up!

He is eager to do *“immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine.” Ephesians 3:20* And He encourages us to pray with persistence to that end.

God loves it when we ask for the impossible and expect to get it! He wants us to be persistence. He wants us to ask for *“anything according to His will,”* which is His Word, and then promises *“He hears us.” 1 John 5:14* He wants us to have faith as small as a mustard seed. He wants to do the impossible – whatever we can’t do as humans. He wants to glorify Himself through us.

**Pray for** those around you who aren’t following Jesus – your family, friends, neighbors and even lawmakers. No matter how impossible that person may appear to be, remember what happened to Saul on the road to Damascus.

Praise and thank God for 3 recent Supreme Court rulings: 9–0 ruling that struck down pro-life bubble zone laws at abortion clinics; 9–0 ruling that found the President’s appointments during Congress’ “recess” to be unconstitutional; and 5–4 ruling in favor of companies that are run by people of faith who don’t want to pay for abortion-inducing drugs in healthcare. (The case was not about contraceptives, but about baby-killing drugs that Obamacare was forcing companies to pay for.)

Praise God that as a result of the Hobby Lobby ruling, many LGBT national groups have pulled their support for the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which has been at the top of their priority list for many years.

Pray for the Church to reach the people who are leaving, including the teens and college-age men and women who are abandoning their Christian faith.

Pray that pastors would see the need to teach their members to discern the lies of the culture. The only way to recognize the counterfeit is to study and know the real thing.

Pray that they would preach on God’s design for marriage and His design for human sexuality.

Pray that voters would exercise their duty to both Caesar and God by voting this November for godly candidates. *“But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.” Exodus 18:21*

Pray for the November election.

