



"The Power of Prayer!"

1 Timothy 2:1-2

2 Peter 3:9

1 Timothy 2:4

Genesis 19:29

Intro: The Heart of God is to see that no one perish! Yet, when people and nations continue in their sins, God must judge accordingly! Take a look at Sodom & Gomorrah! **Ezekiel 16:50 /**

Genesis 19:4-5 / 24-25

- God saves those who love Him and are obedient to Him! **2 Peter 2:7-9**
- Lot should have never been where he was! **Genesis 13:12** – Wherever you place your eyes...your heart will follow! (Every morning he saw Sodom first thing!)
- God told Abraham that He was going to Sodom and Gomorrah to see about the outcry of sin. **Genesis 18:20-21**
- Abraham remained, and did not go to these two wicked cities and the Lord was with him! **Verse 22**
- Here is where this gets really interesting...

1. Abraham began to pray for people to be rescued out of the sinful cities!

- **Genesis 18:23-33**
- Look at the Lord's patience and love! If only just 10 people are righteous they would be spared!
- I'm sure that if Abraham would not have stopped asking God that just ONE person could be saved! But, if you look at what Abraham was doing...it was for Lot and his family!
- The power of Prayer is a very interesting thing! Abraham's prayers held back the Judgment for a while on these two wicked cities because God saw his heart!
- **Intercession** = to take the place of another; to stand in the gap between a person and God to plead their case.
- Intercession is unselfish because it's not for you but for others! Abraham knew that they would all die if he did not intercede on Lot's behalf! That's faith and belief!
- **Who is it today that you know that needs to be saved? That needs rescued from their sin? That is heading towards Hell? Do you pray for them like Abraham did?**

- I think of scriptures like **Proverbs 24:11** / **Jude 1:23** / **Colossians 1:13-14**!
- It is your prayers, sharing the Scriptures, telling your testimony and being faithful to God **that CAN lead** to the Salvation and Rescue of a person!
- They have to choose! When Lot's wife looked back at Sodom & Gomorrah...that was her choice! She knew the Truth!
- I say "CAN" because even though Abraham prayed for 50...50 did not turn to the Lord! A person must make their own choice to respond to the Holy Spirit and Scriptures!
- **Jeremiah 35:12-15** is a prime example! God had no one else to send to or pray for them!

2. We need to pray for our nation and neighbors!

- This is where we live! This is where our family is! This is our nation! **Timothy 2:1-2**
- God tells us to first pray for those in authority (President, VP, etc.) *Surely there are just 10 of these leaders who love God that God would spare us from Judgment?
- If there isn't anyone praying for the nation....judgment is the only result! **Ezekiel 22:30-31** **Who is standing in the gap today?** God could not find one person in that day!
- We must not allow our great enemy the Devil to win each day! **2 Corinthians 4:4**, **Peter 5:8** and **James 4:7**! **Pray!**
- See, Prayer brings **PEACE** to a nation when the people listen to the Lord! **Timothy 2:1-3**
- The reason that we pray for PEACE in our nation is not to be able to go take more vacations, hit the river every weekend and on and on! It is so that people can hear the Good News of Jesus Christ without hindrance! **Timothy 2:4** Their Eternity is at stake!
- **The Goal?** **Matthew 24:14**
- When there is chaos and persecution...the church can still move forward! God works in all circumstances to see people saved! **Acts 8:4** (No excuse to not spread the Gospel!)

3. Sometimes prayer is very intense for others!

- **Romans 8:26** – the Holy Spirit prays on your behalf at times!
- Paul experienced this when he was praying for the churches of Galatia. **Galatians 4:19**
- I've learned this about prayer at times...if there is not TRAVAIL (Pain or crying out) there is no birth! Just like a birth of a baby...there is much travail!
- Epaphras in Colossians wrestled in prayer! **Colossians 4:12**
- We must be in an attitude of prayer all of the time! **Thessalonians 5:16-18**
- **Please know this:** Prayer does not always have to be the pleading and intense prayers! There are times for that! Prayer can be as simple as sitting still, and knowing that God is right there and you thanking Him for being right there!
- **Every situation is going to be different!** Just like Abraham, the Sodom & Gomorrah prayer moment needed to be intense! It was for rescuing people! It was urgent!
- **Abraham believed** that God would listen, hear his prayers and then answer! **Hebrews 13:8** – "Jesus Christ is the SAME yesterday, today and forever!"

Let us be a people who pray every day! *Join us on Wednesday Night April 1st, during Holy Week, to pray and intercede for our community before our Good Friday & Easter Sunday Services! WHO KNOWS WHO COULD BE SAVED!