

**Psalm 37:3-6** <sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. <sup>4</sup> Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

**Luke 18:1-8** <sup>1</sup> And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; <sup>2</sup> Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. <sup>4</sup> And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; <sup>5</sup> Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. <sup>7</sup> And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

**James 5:12-16** <sup>12</sup> But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. <sup>13</sup> Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. <sup>14</sup> Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. <sup>16</sup> Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**Isaiah 45:11,19** <sup>11</sup> Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me ... <sup>19</sup> I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

- We talk a lot (and pray a lot) about “Lord, if it be Thy will.” But there is no Scriptural precedent for such abdication of responsibility in prayer! God constantly looks for people to “stand in the gap” (Ezekiel 22:30).
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus did not pray “Thy will be done” because His flesh did not know the will of God, but because it did know and didn’t want to do it! That’s the only Scriptural precedent for praying “not my will, but Thine!” (Matthew 26:39, Mark 14:36, Luke 22:42)
- Martin Luther, the great reformer, said “Lord, I will have my will of Thee at this time.”
- We all have desires, but so does God – and His desires for us are good, not evil. There are perhaps thousands of things God wants to give us, but we sometimes get in the way ... (1) We have not asked Him at all, (2) We have asked Him with an incorrect method or motive, (3) We have not been persistent enough with Him, (4) We are not yet ready to receive the answer, (5) We cannot see the harm our request would bring to us
  - **Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*
  - **James 4:2-3** <sup>2</sup> Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. <sup>3</sup> Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.
  - **1 Corinthians 2:9** *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*
- Prayer is not for God – prayer is for us! Prayer is not talking God into wanting to give us something. Prayer is convincing God that we are ready to receive it!

## HOW TO ARGUE WITH GOD

### 1. Argue with God concerning His promises.

- Jacob was afraid when returning to Jabbok to meet Esau. He reminded God of His promise.
  - **Genesis 32:12** *And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.*
- He prayed, “Lord, remember what You said?” This is one of the best ways to get your prayers answered. Get a Scripture in the Bible where God makes a promise, and take it to God. Say, “God, look at this! You promised!”
- It’s like someone making notes of a conversation they had with you. If you are a man of your word, you will fulfill the promises you made to someone when they remind you of them. God is a man of His Word! Hold Him to it!

- This “reminding” is what prayer is all about! The word “praying” means to ask. Do you want something? Ask something? (i.e. kids whining!) Prayer is not whining to God, it is asking God for something! Command ye me!
- The secret to getting things from God is not how long you pray, or how loud you pray, but simply how you pray! (i.e. long-winded preacher told sick man died while he was “in China”)
  - **2 Samuel 7:25** *And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as thou hast said.*
  - **John 15:7** *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*
- God’s promises are a cheque that you have a right to cash! Get a promise from the Bible, come to God in prayer and claim it. Argue with Him!

## 2. Argue with God concerning His reputation.

- On Mount Carmel, Elijah prayed, “God, Your reputation is at stake – show Yourself to us!”
  - **1 Kings 18:36-37** *And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.*
- Because of Israel’s rebellion, God was not going to go with them to the Promised Land. Moses said, “God, I am not going unless You go with me.” Because He insisted, God finally relented and told Moses what to do so that Israel could find a place of repentance.
- Moses didn’t pray a big formal prayer, he simply told God straight out what he wanted.
  - **Exodus 33:11** *And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.*
- Have you ever seen anyone who wanted to be begged? “Let’s go out to eat.” “No, you go ahead.” “Come on, we want you to go.” “Oh no, I’m not hungry anyway.” “But we want you – it wouldn’t be the same without you.” “Aww, I would just be in the way, you don’t want me.” The truth is, they are dying to go! What they want is for you to convince them that YOU want them to go! GOD WANTED TO KNOW THAT MOSES REALLY WANTED HIM TO GO!
- Moses reminded God of His reputation, and that won his case! “God, what will the heathen think if Israel dies out here in the wilderness? You led them out – You have to lead them in!”
- Hezekiah spread the threatening letter from Sennacherib before the Lord. “God, if these heathen win this battle, they will think You are not the true God. Your reputation is at stake!”
  - **2 Kings 19:19** *Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.*

## 3. Argue with God concerning His attributes.

- When God has not yet answered your prayer, return to Him and say, “God, that is not like You!”
- Have you ever seen someone who wanted something from someone “brag on them” before they made the request? They have to do it, because they have been reminded of their attributes!
- You can come to God like that. Abraham did when Sodom was about to be destroyed.
  - **Genesis 18:25** *That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*

## 4. Argue with God concerning His record.

- Remind God of His record. “God, You started this – I’m just calling on You to finish what You started!”
  - **Psalms 27:9** *Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.*
  - **Numbers 14:13** *And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)*
- Why did Israel always pray to “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?” They were reminding God of His record! Remind God of what He has done in the past!
- Perhaps more people would get answers to their prayers if they were careful to promote God’s record instead of their own when they do get an answer! “God, I will tell this answer far and wide – for Your glory!”

**God’s hand is not shortened and His ear is not heavy! How important is your request to you? Why don’t you argue?! God invites you to prove His promises!**

**Isaiah 59:1** *Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:*

**Malachi 3:10** *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*