

# ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH

## A Classic Series

### What Happens When We Pray?

Genesis 18:22–33



#### LET'S BEGIN HERE

We've all heard it said that we never stand taller than when we kneel before God. But what actually happens when we offer our prayers and petitions to God? Does He change His mind? Can we alter His plan or reverse His course? If not, then why pray? In this message, we zoom in on Abraham's passionate intercession on behalf of Lot and his family in the face of the imminent destruction of Sodom. By analyzing Abraham's prayer, we can understand the struggle that occurs between petition (*what* we ask for) and desire (*why* we ask) and gain insight into the important role prayer plays in our lives. As we do, we'll learn to pray with confidence before the throne of grace.



#### LET'S DIG DEEPER

##### 1. Two Major Ingredients in Most Prayers

According to James 4:2–3, there are two ingredients in prayer: the *petition* (the request itself) and the *desire* (the reason for asking). The petition is *what* we ask for; the desire is *why* we ask for it.

##### 2. Four Ways God Responds to Our Prayers

When he approached God with his request in Genesis 18:22–26, Abraham had no idea how the Lord would answer in this particular situation. Likewise, we cannot know exactly how God will respond when we pray. However, as we reflect on various prayers throughout Scripture, we see four ways the Lord responds to humans' petitions and desires.

- Petition: "Yes" . . . Desire: "No."
- Petition: "No" . . . Desire: "Yes"



## Quotable

*Prayer is  
one of  
the deepest  
subjects we  
can study.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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- Petition: “No” . . . Desire: “No”



## LET'S LIVE IT

Abraham's life was a life of prayer. Through his example and our reflection on the Bible's teaching on prayer, we learn that we may experience three possible answers to any prayer.

1. God can (and often does) say yes!
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. God can (and often does) say no!
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. God can (and often does) say wait!



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Recall a time when God said yes! to your prayer in just the way you petitioned. Describe this experience in the space below as a constant reminder that God often does answer when you call on Him.



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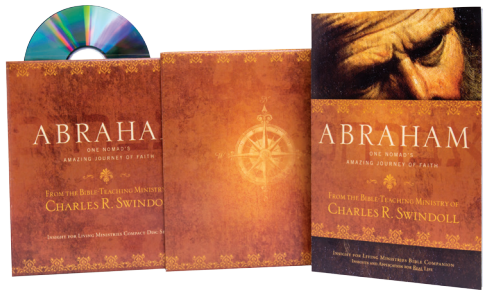
## A Classic Series

What Happens When We Pray?

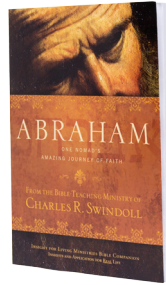
*Genesis 18:22–33*



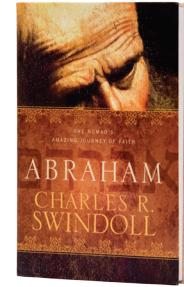
Tools for Digging Deeper



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