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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

45. Holy Pleadings and Argument Before God

This chapter teaches that prevailing prayer often takes the form of holy reasoning—laying out a well-prepared case before God point by point. It argues this is not complaining or irreverence but bold, submissive intercession for God's glory, and shows how Abraham and Moses did it.

Key takeaways

- God invites us to reason with Him; prayer that prevails brings arguments, not just requests.
- Holy argument flows from love for God's name and glory, offered in full submission to His will—never as a legal adversary but as an advocate pleading a need.
- Plead only for what you believe, from His Word, to be God's will; pray 'Your will be done' militantly, marshaling every God-glorifying reason.
- Abraham pleaded for Sodom by appealing to God's justice, His mercy, and His righteous character as Judge—bargaining boldly from fifty down to ten (Gen. 18).

- Moses turned back God's wrath after the golden calf by arguing from God's redeeming history, the glory of His name before Egypt, and His promises to the patriarchs (Exod. 32).
- God is not angered by bold, biblical pleading; He honored both men afterward as His friends.

Passages worth keeping

"The man who has his mouth full of arguments in prayer shall soon have his mouth full of benedictions in answer to prayer."

Spurgeon's summary of why pleading prevails.

"Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Abraham's argument from God's own righteous character.

Scripture referenced

- **Isa. 1:18** -- God's invitation to 'reason together'—a court-type hearing.
- **Job 23:3-5** -- Longing to state one's case and fill the mouth with arguments before God.
- **Gen. 18:22-33** -- Abraham pleading for Sodom, point by point.
- **Exod. 32:9-14** -- Moses arguing God out of destroying Israel.
- **Exod. 33:11** -- God spoke with Moses face to face, as a friend.
- **James 2:23** -- Abraham called the friend of God through his pleading.