

Pray For Non-Believers

PASTOR JOSH REED

“So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham stood still before the LORD.”

GENESIS 18:22

Have you ever seen someone negotiate? Perhaps it was at a marketplace or at a car dealership. Perhaps they negotiated with you over your lunch or negotiated with someone else for a set of valuable athletic trading cards.

In Genesis chapter 18, Abraham is negotiating with God on behalf of those who are spiritually lost. Abraham demonstrates a heart of compassion by praying for the unsaved. He pleads with God to relent from implementing His holy judgment if 50 righteous are found, and in God’s mercy, He grants Abraham’s request. However, Abraham knows there are not 50 righteous people, so he continues pleading with the Lord in a back-and-forth negotiation until that number dwindles down to a mere ten. At each prayerful pleading, God graciously grants Abraham’s request.

Abraham’s persistent prayers reveal a heart for the lost. Abraham’s prayers foreshadow Jesus’s prayer of compassion for the lost while praying on the cross, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Who can you be praying for God to save today? Is it a family member? A coworker? A neighbor or friend? Don’t give up on them. Keep praying, because as God delights in saving sinners for as Luke 15:10 says, “there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents!”