

**“Prayer: It’s Not Rocket Science (But We Treat It Like It Is)”**

**Text: Genesis 18:16-33 (pew Bible page 13)**

**I. Our praying is informed and motivated by what God has revealed about His will.**

**Verse 17 “The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do...”**

**II. Our best praying is accompanied by a humble heart, a fervent spirit, and a persistent will.**

**A. A Humble Heart**

**Verse 27 “I who am but dust and ashes.”**

**Verse 30 “Oh let not the Lord be angry...”**

**B. A Fervent (Intense) Spirit**

**Verses 23-25**

**C. A Persistent Will**

**Verse 24 “Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city.”**

**45....40....30....20....10...**

**Abraham petitions the Lord *six times* on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah**

**III. Our praying is supported, (not thwarted), by a knowledge of God’s sovereignty**

**Psalms 139:4 and 6 “ Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”**

**Matthew 6:8 “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”**

**The next words out of Jesus’ mouth?... 😊**

**IV. Our praying impacts God’s plan; not His character.**

**James 5:16 “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”**

**Genesis 18:23-25 (selected) “Suppose there are fifty righteous... Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”**

**Romans 3:10 “There is no one righteous, *not even one*...”**

**How, then, were any spared?**

**Titus 3:5 “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His *mercy*.**