

Contending with God in Prayer (2)

Today's Topic: How should interceding believers pray pleading prayers to God?

Isaiah 43:26 ESV – “Put Me in remembrance; let us argue together; set forth (or plead KJV) your case, that you may be proved right.”

There is a sense in which prevailing with God can take the form of holy reasoning and even presenting holy arguments before God. George Mueller urged us to use “holy argument in prayer.”

The Bible, often times, uses court terms for our face-to-face prayer sessions with God.

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD” (Isa. 1:18). This is an invitation to a court-type hearing, a court appeal at the throne of God.

You do not plead like a negative, legal adversary in the presence of God the holy Judge. Rather, you plead in the form of a well-prepared brief, prepared by a legal advocate on behalf of a need and for the welfare of the Kingdom.

At times, you are in a sense petitioning God's court for an injunction against Satan to stop his harassment. Let the Holy Spirit guides you in the preparation and wording of your prayer argument.

Two Types of Promises: (1) Promises found in God's Word (2) Promises received through prophetic words

1) Promises found in God's Word

Here are two Biblical examples of some general promises found in the Bible:

a) Power for prayer is found for us in the Name of Jesus.

i) *John 14:13 – “Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*

ii) *Mark 16:17 – “And these signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues.”*

b) Power in prayer is secured for us through our Son-ship.

i) *Matthew 7:11 – “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in Heaven give good things to those who ask Him.”*

ii) *Galatians 4:6, 7 – “And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”*

2) Prophetic words and other personal promises received in prayer

- a) What about prophetic words. Can I pray through them and plead my case to God?
- b) The Apostle Paul taught Timothy to fight in prayer over his prophetic words!

1 Timothy 1:18, 19 “This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience...”

Three qualifying attitudes when pleading the promises of God:

- 1) Are your pleas in accordance with God’s will?
- 2) Will your pleas promote and extend God’s Kingdom?
- 3) Do your pleas bring glory to His name?

Pleading the Promises of God

1) Plead the honor and glory of His name.

The Lord in His model prayer for us taught us that our first concern in prayer is to hallow God’s name (Matthew 6:9). To hallow is to make it holy, to make it great! ...to help it truly reflect God’s glory, to set it apart from all that is common.

So God is concerned about how His name is represented in us.

- a) Asaph prayed for God to help Israel “for the glory of Your name” (Psalm 79:9)
- b) Jeremiah called on the integrity of His name: *Jeremiah 14:7; 21 – “Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, for Your name’s sake... (v.21) Do not spurn us, for Your name’s sake; do not dishonor Your glorious throne; remember and do not break Your covenant with us.”*
- c) There is no name like the name of Jesus. *“Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:9–11).*

2) Plead God's relationship with you.

- a) God is your Creator. The psalmist reminded God that we are the work of His hands (Ps. 119:73). So, for the sake of God's creation, as the work of His hands that bring Him glory, you have the right to plead for glorious things to occur!
- b) God is your Helper (*Psalm 46:1 – "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"*).
- c) God is your Redeemer.
 - i) Isaiah made this plea in his mighty intercession (*Isaiah 63:16 – "For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name"*).
 - ii) You belong to Him by redemption. He is responsible for you.
- d) God is your Father.
 - i) Jesus repeatedly pleaded the Fatherhood of God in His prayer.
 - ii) Paul did the same thing. "Abba, Father" is a powerful plea (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6).

Creator, Helper, Redeemer, and Father, will He not remember you, protect you, and provide for you and for all that He has created and redeemed?

What powerful pleas you can make on the basis of God's relationship to you!

3) Plead God's attributes.

Charles Spurgeon preached, "We shall find every attribute of God Most High to be, as it were, a great battering-ram, with which we may open the gates of Heaven."

4) Plead the sorrows and needs of God's people.

- a) David, Daniel, Nehemiah, and Jeremiah all identified with the suffering of God's people and made pleas unto God for help.
- b) Jeremiah even made a list in the book of Lamentations whereby he and God's people could lament, and cry out for God's help.

*Lamentations 5:1-21 – "Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace! **2** Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners. **3** We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are like widows. **4** We must pay for the water we drink; the wood we get must be bought. **5** Our pursuers are at our necks; we are weary; we are given no rest... (v. **8**) Slaves rule over us; there is none to deliver us from their hand... (v. **11**) Women are*

raped in Zion, young women in the towns of Judah. (v.13) Young men are compelled to grind at the mill, and boys stagger under loads of wood. 14 The old men have left the city gate, the young men their music. 15 The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning. 16 The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned! 17 For this our heart has become sick, for these things our eyes have grown dim, 18 for Mount Zion which lies desolate; jackals prowl over it. 19 But you, O Lord, reign forever; Your throne endures to all generations. 20 Why do You forget us forever, why do You forsake us for so many days? 21 Restore us to Yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old...

5) Plead the promise of God's Word.

a) Learn to speak the scriptures as words to your prayers.

b) Ten Powerful Biblical Promises:

- i) Deliverance from demonic harassment (*Psalms 34:7; Psalms 61:3; Psalms 91:14-15; Matthew 17:18-21; Luke 4:14-18; James 4:7 "Submit to God, resist the Devil and he will flee"; Revelation 12:10-11*)
- ii) Freedom from addictions (*Psalms 50:15; Isaiah 58:6; Isaiah 61:1; Ezekiel 36:26-27 "a new heart I will give to you..."; John 8:36; Romans 8:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:1 "... God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able... He will make an escape"; 2 Corinthians 5:17*)
- iii) Deliverance from depression (*Psalms 9:9-10; Psalms 34:17; Psalms 107:13-16; Proverbs 12:25; Isaiah 41:10; Isaiah 54:10; Lamentations 3:19-25; 2 Corinthians 1:2-4 – "God comforts us in all our troubles..."*)
- iv) Favor on your family (*Exodus 20:12; Psalms 103:17; Proverbs 22:6; Proverbs 23:24; Isaiah 44:3 – "I will pour My Spirit upon your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants..."; Isaiah 49:25; Malachi 4:6*)
- v) Power over fear (*Exodus 14:14; Deuteronomy 31:8; Joshua 1:9; Psalms 18:3; Psalms 23:4; Psalms 27:1; Psalms 34:7; Psalms 61:3; Isaiah 41:13; Isaiah 43:2; John 14:27 – "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid"*)
- vi) Infilling of the Holy Spirit (*Proverbs 1:23; Isaiah 44:3; Luke 11:9-13; John 14:13-16; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:17-18; Acts 2:38-39 – "Repent... be baptized and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children..."; Ephesians 3:16-19*)
- vii) Help with finances and jobs (*Deuteronomy 28:12; Proverbs 10:4; Proverbs 13:11; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 6:31-33; Philippians 4:19 – "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ."*)

- viii) Direction and Guidance when needed (*Genesis 28:15; Psalms 25:12; Psalms 32:8 Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 58:10-11; Isaiah 65:24; Jeremiah 33:3; John 16:13; James 1:5 – “if you lack wisdom He will give it to you.”*)
- ix) Good health and healing (*Exodus 15:26; Psalms 103:2-5; Proverbs 3:7-8; Isaiah 40:31; Isaiah 53:3-5; Jeremiah 17:14; Jeremiah 30:17; Malachi 4:2; James 5:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24 – “by his stripes you were healed.”*)
- x) Strength to do His will (*Joshua 1:9; Psalms 27:14; Isaiah 40:29; Isaiah 54:17; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*)

Great Resource: “Mighty Prevailing Prayer” Wesley L. Duwel