

I. Faith Christian Fellowship  
II. April 9, 2017  
III. The Way of Faith  
IV. 8: Covenant Prayer

**TEXT:** Romans 4:11-12, 16 / Hebrews 4:14-16

Hebrews 4:16 MSG So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.

We are building our faith this year. We are following the way of faith of father Abraham, his progressive obedience, staying put when it's tough, and lining up with what He told you. We saw the responsibilities of blessing. We saw the responsibilities of blessing, and two important questions to the life of faith. We saw the dangers of doing it ourselves, and examined our part in the covenant. Today, intimacy, boldness, and a broken world.

- 1) **Reminder:** Faith has three basic components:
  - a) Heart content - keep your heart. Prov 4:23 / Matt 12:34 ...for whatever is in your heart determines what you say.
  - b) Tongue –Your tongue determines your course. James 3:2-15.
  - c) Actions – Faith without works is useless. James 2:26
  - d) The content of your heart will impact how you pray.
- 2) Covenant changes prayer from a formula to a conversation.
  - a) Abraham's interaction with God, even after the fifth appearance, is remarkably transparent. This is relationship.
  - b) Doubting Abraham. Gen 17:15-17
  - c) Bargaining Abraham. Gen 17:18-21 (Note V. "As for Ishmael, I have heard you...")
  - d) Laughing Sarah:
    - d.i) Abraham took the plunge. Gen 17:22-27
    - d.ii) The Lord appeared again, this time to confer with him.
    - d.iii) Sarah was questioning. Gen 18:10-15
- 3) The Prayer of a Man with A Covenant:
  - a) Abraham took on his covenant position in praying for his family. He didn't whine. Genesis 18:16-33
  - b) Vv. 17-19. Outrageous intimacy. God's attitude toward Abraham – He doesn't hide things from those He trusts or who will be involved in His business. Amos 3:7 / John 15:15

- c) Vv. 20-21. God's explanation of what He is about to do. He hears the outcry of the innocents! He also looks to see if it is accurate.
  - c.i) Gen 18:20-21 (19:13) Sexually abused immersed in perversion.
  - c.ii) Gen 4:10 Abel's blood. Justice for those who have been slaughtered for their faith
  - c.iii) Ex 3:7-9 / 2:23-24 Israel in bondage. The cry of those in bondage moves God.
  - c.iv) Ex 22:21-23 The widow, the fatherless and the stranger
  - c.v) 1 Sam 9:16 Israel's desire for a king (Not all our crying is a good thing) What are you whining about that is not the will of God?
  - c.vi) Psalm 9:12 the humble- the meek, poor, afflicted
    - (c.vi.1) James 5:4 laborers who have been ripped off by the rich and powerful.
    - (c.vi.2) (Dt 24:13-15 the laborer in search of fair wages)
  - c.vii) Lk 18:7 the people of God under the heel of oppression
- d) Vv. 22-33. A most remarkable prayer:
  - d.i) Abraham boldly stood near the Lord. He appealed to the justice of the Just One. He knew the covenant and **the nature of the Lord.**
  - d.ii) This is the attitude of a man who is not concerned about his acceptance before God. He spent zero time wondering if he was saved or if there was some sin in his life or if he was using the right formula. He knew he could talk to the Lord.
  - d.iii) Note that he quit at 10 and therefore the city was destroyed, though Lot and his family were spared. The angels actually went to Lot's house to get them out. 2 Peter 2:7

**The outcry in the earth is deafening.**

**Are we available and up to the task?**

**We are the ones God has graced with a revelation of righteousness and the power of the Spirit.**

**Who will intercede if we don't?**