

Reason with God in Prayer

Disclaimer

This subject is very broad with many Bible examples, so these slides are only an introduction.

Exhortation

Embrace the slides with verses,
for His words are most precious.

We should pray intelligently, for
our God is wise and expects it,
and He gave us intelligence.

We should pray intelligently, for
vain repetitions are that – *vain!*



But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Matthew 6:7

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

I Corinthians 14:15

We should pray intelligently, for
wise praying is effectual praying.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16

We need three things to pray well.

Character = Righteous

Spirit = Fervent

Content = Effectual

Effectual

That produces its intended effect,
or adequately answers its
purpose; effective.

I Cor 16:9; II Cor 1:6; Eph 3:7; 4:16; Philemon 1:6

There are ways to pray that work,
and there are ways to pray
that do not work.

Prayer is learned behavior.

We must learn how to pray.

We must examine our praying.

We must correct praying faults.

Teach us to pray, Lord.

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

Intelligent prayers have six parts.

1. Praise
2. Confession
3. Thanksgiving
4. Intercession
5. Petition
6. Jesus' name

But there is more than six parts.

There is reasoning with God in
prayer that He accepts
and answers.

REASONING

APPEAL TO FORGIVING OTHERS

God encourages us by promising
to forgive those that forgive
others and vice versa.

Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35

Even in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus included reasoning for mercy based on us forgiving others.

But there is more than six parts.

There is reasoning with God in
prayer that He accepts
and answers.

Reason (verb):

To bring reasons or arguments
why a person should do what
you ask or need them to do.



**Wrestle With God
Do Not Let Go!**

Wrestling with God in prayer is to bring every angle and argument to bear that you can to convince Him to hear and answer you.

REASONING

**BY NEVER GIVING UP
BY USING YOUR MIGHT**





Here is a great Bible example
to introduce holy reasoning
with God that worked.

God told Abraham that He
planned to destroy the
city of Sodom.

Abraham's nephew Lot lived in Sodom with a family of ten.

2 = Lot and his wife

6 = Married daughters with husbands

2 = Unmarried daughters still at home

Abraham prayed to God to save
the lives of Lot and his family.

Here is how he did it.

He used holy reasoning.

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Genesis 18:23

That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Genesis 18:25

Abraham told God it was wrong
to destroy righteous persons
along with wicked persons.

Do not think for a second he was
irreverent or disrespectful, for
God heard and submitted.

REASONING

**BY WHAT IS MORALLY RIGHT
BY THE CHARACTER OF GOD**

This is powerful reasoning:

**Righteousness of the Situation
God's Character or Attributes**

Abraham did not pray,

Lord, we thank you for this day.

Such words remind me of
this letter-writing skill:

Hi, how are you? I am fine.

Abraham prayed,

*If you destroy righteous people
in Sodom, it will be wrong.*

Thank God to see Abraham
negotiate with Him for his
nephew's family in Sodom.

Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

Genesis 18:24

And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

Genesis 18:26

27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:

28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five?

Genesis 18:27-28

And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

Genesis 18:28

And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there.

Genesis 18:29

And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

Genesis 18:29

And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there.

Genesis 18:30

And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

Genesis 18:30

And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there.

Genesis 18:31

And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

Genesis 18:31

And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there.

Genesis 18:32

And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

Genesis 18:32

And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Genesis 18:33

Did you follow Abraham's prayer?

- Will you do wrong?
- Will you spare for 50?
- Will you do wrong?
- Will you spare for 45?
- Will you spare for 40?
- Will you spare for 30?
- Will you spare for 20?
- Will you spare for 10?

REASONING

BY WHAT THE FACTS LIKELY ARE
BY YOU AS DUST AND ASHES
BY APPEAL TO NO ANGER

Abraham's only mistakes were
starting too high and not
going low enough!



**Wrestle With God
Do Not Let Go!**

Example

We use this case when we pray for
God to spare America for the
sake of the righteous in it.

Did Abraham's aggressive, bold approach to prayer work?

Do not think for a second he was
irreverent or disrespectful, for
God heard and submitted.

And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

Genesis 19:29

Abraham's aggressive, bold approach worked, though ten righteous souls were not found!

Do you read your Bible?

There is much more than just history. Read carefully and slowly to learn how great men prayed.

Like Abraham but different,
Jeremiah appealed to God to
honor how he treated enemies.

19 Give heed to me, O LORD, and hearken to the voice of them that contend with me.

20 Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them.

Jeremiah 18:19-20

REASONING

BY GOOD VS. WICKED CONDUCT

21 Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their blood by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and be widows; and let their men be put to death; let their young men be slain by the sword in battle.

22 Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet.

23 Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger.

Jeremiah 18:21-23

REASONING

THEIR CRUELTY DESERVES VENGEANCE

Example

If you have an enemy, ask God to
see your fairness to them and
their cruelty in return.

Psalm 35:11-28

20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

22 And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Genesis 28:20-22

REASONING

BY ATTACHING A VOW

The limitation on vows is to make
sure you pay, so vow wisely,
and pay every vow.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7



**Wrestle With God
Do Not Let Go!**

9 And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Genesis 32:9-12

REASONING

BY PROMISES GOD SPOKE

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Genesis 32:24-26

27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

Genesis 32:27-29

3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:

4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;

5 Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.

Hosea 12:3-5

REASONING

BY REFUSING NO FOR GOD'S ANSWER

This is one of the great prayer examples in the Bible of a bold and aggressive approach to God.

Many would foolishly and weakly
say ... *Forgive me, Lord* ... when
the angel asked to leave.



**Wrestle With God
Do Not Let Go!**

14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

II Samuel 12:14-16

21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

II Samuel 12:21-23

REASONING

NEVER GIVE UP UNTIL THE BABY DIES

Is there a woman that wrestled
with God like Jacob did until
she got her blessing?







9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

I Samuel 1:9-11

12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

I Samuel 1:12-15

REASONING

**BY POURING OUR HER SOUL TO GOD
BY ATTACHING A VERY COSTLY VOW**

Note four things about Hannah.

1. Her Samuel outstripped all Peninnah's children.
2. Her Samuel went from nursing to worship God.
3. God also gave her three sons and two daughters.
4. Her prayer of thanksgiving is gloriously vengeful.

17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great,
according as thou hast spoken, saying,

18 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

Number 14:17-18

8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

Nehemiah 1:8-9

REASONING

BY PROMISES GOD SPOKE

God has not spoken to us, so we
reason with Him by scripture.

12 And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

13 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

Daniel 9:12-13

REASONING

BY PROMISES GOD WROTE

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ....

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,...

Acts 4:20-31

REASONING

BY PROMISES GOD WROTE

Example

A husband and wife can reason
with God to hear their
agreement of two.

Matthew 18:19

Example

Remind God of his promise to give
wisdom liberally for asking.

James 1:5

And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.

II Chronicles 14:11

REASONING

**BY IRRELEVANCE OF NUMBERS
BY NOT LETTING MAN WIN**

Example

Lord, bless our little church, for we preach thy truth, and let not popular types like Joel prevail.

A common and frequent prayer is
for health or life extension, but
why do you want to live longer?

1 O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

2 Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed....

5 For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

Psalm 6:1-5

REASONING

BY LIFE EXTENSION FOR PRAISE

18 For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

19 The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

Isaiah 38:18-19

REASONING

BY LIFE EXTENSION FOR PRAISE

BY LIFE EXTENSION TO TEACH

Psalm 30:9; 88:10-12; 115:17-18; 118:17-18

1 In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,

3 And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Isaiah 38:1-3

REASONING

LIFE EXTENSION DUE TO GOOD DEEDS

There is power in a righteous life.

You can pray far more boldly.

You can appeal to your works.

But only the righteous can do it.

Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

Nehemiah 5:19

Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

Nehemiah 13:14

And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

Nehemiah 13:22

30 Thus cleansed I them from all strangers, and appointed the wards of the priests and the Levites, every one in his business;
31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Nehemiah 13:30-31

REASONING

**BY GOOD WORKS DONE FOR GOD
BY PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS**

David reasoned this way with God
several times, though a sinner.

Psalm 7:1-10; 18:19-28; 26:1-11; 35:11-28; 101:1-8

It is a foolish error by the ignorant
or the fearful or the hypocrites
to overlook reasoning from
your own righteousness.





In our current study in Isaiah,
we found Hezekiah reasoning
with God about Sennacherib.

And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up unto the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

Isaiah 37:14

REASONING

BY IDENTIFYING EVIL IN GOD'S SIGHT

15 And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying,
16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

Isaiah 37:15-16

REASONING

**BY MAGNIFYING GOD HIGHLY
BY APPEAL TO HIS GODHEAD
BY APPEAL TO THE CREATOR**

Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.

Isaiah 37:17

REASONING

BY IDENTIFYING REPROACH OF GOD

18 Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries,

19 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.

Isaiah 37:18-19

REASONING

**BY ADMITTING FACTS OF SUCCESS
BY ADMITTING FACTS OF IDOLS**

Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.

Isaiah 37:20

REASONING

BY APPEAL FOR GOD'S PUBLIC GLORY

This prayer took 48-58 seconds;
it brought a glorious response
and His terrible vengeance.

18 Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name....

21 O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name.

22 Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.

23 Forget not the voice of thine enemies: the tumult of those that rise up against thee increaseth continually.

Psalm 74:18-23

REASONING

**BY APPEAL FOR GOD'S NAME
BY APPEAL TO DEEDS OF ENEMIES**

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

Joel 2:17-18

9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

10 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed.

Psalm 79:9-10

17 Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish:

18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Psalm 83:17-18

REASONING

BY APPEAL TO GOD'S EXISTENCE

BY APPEAL TO HIS GREAT NAME

I Sam 12:22; Psalm 106:8; 109:21; 115:1-2; 143:11-12

Isaiah 48:9-11; Ezekiel 20:9,14,22,44; 36:21-24

God punished David for giving enemies a cause to blaspheme, and we can use the same point.

Example

You can appeal many different ways for God to show Himself in your life to prove His existence.

11 Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die;

12 And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord.

13 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

Psalm 79:11-13

REASONING

**BY PROMISE TO THANK HIM
BY PROMISE TO PRAISE HIM**

17 Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.

18 I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.

Psalm 35:17-18

REASONING

BY PROMISE OF PUBLIC THANKS

BY PROMISE OF PUBLIC PRAISE

Example

When asking for His favor in your life, promise Him great praise, if He will answer you.

10 The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

11 So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

Psalm 58:10-11

REASONING

BY A REWARD FOR THE RIGHTEOUS

16 O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

17 Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

Psalm 86:16-17

REASONING

BY PUBLIC FAVOR TO SHAME ENEMIES

Moses and David are the two best
in the Bible for reasoning
with God.

11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

Exodus 32:11-12

REASONING

BY WHAT GOD'S ENEMIES COULD SAY

Numbers 14:13-16; Deuteronomy 9:28; 32:27

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Exodus 33:11-2

REASONING

BY GOD'S OATH TO HIS PEOPLE

Example

Some of you ask what to do when
you think God has forsaken you.
Remind Him of His promises.

Hebrews 13:5; Revelation 3:20

4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:...

Psalm 78:4-8

REASONING

BY HIS ANSWER FOR CHILDREN'S FAITH

Example

From health to selling a house or a new job, appeal to God for your children to see His power.

Deut 6:20-25; Joshua 4:6-7

5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee....

7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in....

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

I Kings 3:5-10

REASONING

**BY HUMILITY EVEN BELOW THE FACTS
BY SEEKING SPIRITUAL THINGS FIRST**

God made Solomon the wisest king
... and gave him honor, riches, and
long life he had not requested.

Example

If we will emphasize the spiritual requests found in Ephesians, we may trust He will cover all else.

I Kings 3:11-14; Matthew 6:33; III John 1:1-4

12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Exodus 33:12-13

REASONING

ASK GOD TO PROVE HIS LOVE FOR YOU

Moses was building his case for
God to show Him His glory!

Exodus 33:17-23; 34:5-10

Example

Ask God to treat you like His child
and show you His glory
and power.

20 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,
21 Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may
consume them in a moment.
22 And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of
the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth
with all the congregation?

Numbers 16:20-22

REASONING

LIMIT THE JUDGMENT TO THE SINNERS

11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?...

15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

Numbers 11:11-15

REASONING

**I DIDN'T WANT A JOB LIKE THIS.
WHY ARE YOU PUNISHING ME?
I CANNOT BEAR THIS BURDEN.
IF YOU LOVE, KILL ME INSTEAD.**

God answered this prayer by putting some of Moses' spirit on 70 elders to assist him.

Do not pray this for ordinary
burdens all bear, or you declare
your selfishness and slothfulness.

Example

Ask God to mercifully relieve some of your burden, if He loves you and wants the job done well.

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory,
for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

Psalm 115:1

REASONING

EXALT GOD'S GLORY, NOT YOUR OWN

Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked: further not his wicked device; lest they exalt themselves. Selah.

Psalm 140:8

REASONING

TO KEEP THE WICKED FROM PRIDE

30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

Exodus 32:30-32

REASONING

PUT YOUR LIFE UP FOR MERCY

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 11:11-13

REASONING

**WISE GOD, I WOULD HELP MY CHILD.
I WOULD SAVE HIM FROM TROUBLE.**

Example

You could reason with God by
your mercy in parenting to
solicit more from Him.

Psalm 103:13-14; Matthew 7:9-11

There is much more to effectual prayer than pretty words and lots of details about your request.

Intelligent prayers have six parts.

1. Praise
2. Confession
3. Thanksgiving
4. Intercession
5. Petition
6. Jesus' name

But there is more than six parts.

There is reasoning with God in
prayer that He loves and answers.

Reason (verb):

To bring reasons or arguments
why a person should do what
you ask or need them to do.



**Wrestle With God
Do Not Let Go!**

Wrestling with God in prayer is to bring every angle and argument to bear that you can to convince Him to hear and answer you.

Parents know they would strongly consider a child's request that included some of the lines of reasoning suggested here.

Remember the five great men of
God, known for their intercession;
they knew to reason with God.

Jeremiah 15:1; Ezekiel 14:14



**Wrestle With God
Do Not Let Go!**

The God of the Bible has chosen
to make Himself vulnerable
to men in prayer.

He is more than a prayer-hearing
and prayer-answering God.

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/confidence-in-prayer.pdf>

He is a prayer-teaching and a
prayer-encouraging God.

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/confidence-in-prayer.pdf>

These slides have culled from the Bible the wrestling holds that will prevail over Him like Jacob did.

Bible Ways to Reason – Inspired Wrestling Holds (1)

- Appeal to your forgiveness of others for God to forgive you your own sins.
- Never give up, even if the situation gets worse; continue instant in prayer.
- Pray with all your might, which is fervent claims on God to hear and answer.
- Declare what is morally right in the case from your knowledge of scripture.
- Use the character of God and His attributes, which are revealed in the Bible.
- Pray by the facts as you imperfectly know them. He has perfect knowledge.
- Admit happily that you are dust and ashes and beg Him not to be offended.
- Appeal to the fair and good way you treat enemies that cruelly mistreat you.
- Conclude that their wickedness beyond you deserves the vengeance of God.
- Attach a costly vow you can and will pay; never vow and then not pay Him.

Bible Ways to Reason – Inspired Wrestling Holds (2)

- Appeal to God's spoken promises, though we find them written in scripture.
- Never stop praying until the baby dies or even more; pray without ceasing.
- Pour out your soul to God without regard for decorum for serious wrestling.
- Ignore numbers against you by telling God you know it matters not to Him.
- Tell Him that in an earthly conflict that your loss will be His loss to humans.
- If longer life is your desire, then explain and promise praise by life extension.
- If longer life is your desire, then explain and promise teaching in more years.
- If longer life is your desire, then remind Him of good you have done for Him.
- If longer life is your desire, appeal to your righteousness and His fairness.
- If against an enemy, identify the evil reproach they bring upon God Himself.

Bible Ways to Reason – Inspired Wrestling Holds (3)

- Exalt and magnify Him before you appeal to Him to deal with your enemy.
- Appeal to His glorious Godhead against those that impugn your religion.
- Appeal to His role as Creator against the mere creatures mocking your faith.
- Clearly identify the reproach of God by enemies, like Hezekiah with a letter.
- Admit the successes enemies have had which cause others to honor them.
- Admit the apparent religious superiority enemies have by honor or growth.
- Appeal to God for the public glory you want for Him by His answer to you.
- Remind God that He can Himself public glory by overthrowing evil enemies.
- Remind God His glorious name is being treated like nothing in the earth.
- Tell the evil deeds of enemies, like blasphemy, to arouse His jealous anger.

Bible Ways to Reason – Inspired Wrestling Holds (4)

- Explain that His lack of action causes His eternal existence to be questioned.
- Explain that His ineffable and unique name of Jehovah needs to be glorified.
- Promise that you will thank Him profusely, if He will come to your rescue.
- Promise that you will praise Him forever, if He will deliver you from trouble.
- Promise that you will thank Him publicly, then make an opportunity to do it.
- Promise that you will praise Him publicly, then follow through to do it well.
- Remind Him that His answer will confirm there is a reward for the righteous.
- Tell Him that any token of good He can give you will shame your enemies.
- Explain that if He does not help you, then His enemies could reproach Him.
- Remind Him of the promises and oaths He has made to care for His people.

Bible Ways to Reason – Inspired Wrestling Holds (5)

- Tell Him that His answer will build your children's and grandchildren's faith.
- Denigrate yourself to Him even below the facts like Solomon and Paul did.
- Seek spiritual things over natural; trust Him to add the natural, as Solomon.
- Ask Him to prove His love for you according to all He has declared for elect.
- If the situation fits, then ask God to judge the sinners only, not all involved.
- When overwhelmed, tell Him plainly the pain and dislike, and offer your life.
- Always exalt God's glory over any benefit you will derive and state it clearly.
- Explain that the judgment you seek is to keep the wicked from their pride.
- If you are praying for another soul, put your life or blessings up in exchange.
- He says He is a better father, so tell Him you would have already answered.

For More about Reasoning in Prayer

- Effectual Prayer (Section VIII) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/effectual-prayer.pdf>
- Summary of Effectual Prayer ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/bible-guidelines-for-effectual-prayer.pdf>
- Confidence in Prayer ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/confidence-in-prayer.pdf>
- Prayer Is a Priority ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/prayer-is-a-priority.pdf>
- Power of Prayer (outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/power-of-prayer.pdf>
- Power of Prayer (slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/power-of-prayer-slides.pdf>
- Sermon on the Mount – Prayer ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/sermon-mount-10.pdf>
- Wrestling with God ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/wrestling-with-god.pdf>
- Praying from Psalm 119 ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/prayer-from-psalm-119.pdf>
- Praying for Holy Spirit ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/praying-for-holy-ghost.pdf>
- Need for Holy Spirit ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/holy-spirit-in-ephesians.pdf>