

RESTORING THE ART OF PLEADING YOUR CASE (Part 8)

Responding to His Promises (Part 2)

B. Plead God's Relationship to Us

1. God is our Creator and we are the work of his hands (see Job 10:3, 8-9; 14:15; Ps. 119:73).
2. God is our Helper (see Ps. 33:39; 40:17; 63:7), our ever-present help (see Ps. 46:1).
3. God is our Redeemer (see Ps. 19:14; Isa. 41:14; 54:5). He will have compassion on us because He is our Redeemer (see Isa. 54:8; 63:16).
4. God is our Father (see Isa. 64:8; Mal 3:17; Rom. 8:15), and we are privileged to cry out as children to their father, "Abba [Daddy]! Father!" (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6).

C. Plead God's Attributes

1. Plead God's righteousness as Nehemiah did (see Neh. 9:33). Christ speeds the cause of the righteous (see Isa. 16:5).
2. Plead on the basis of God's faithfulness as Ethan did in Psalm 89, where he makes his holy plea according to God's faithfulness six times.
3. Plead on the basis of His mercy and love. Join Moses (see Deut. 9:18), David (see Ps. 4:1; 27:7; 30:10; 86:6, 15-16), and Daniel and the three Hebrew children (see Dan. 2:18).
4. Charles Spurgeon said, "We shall find every attribute of God Most High to be, as it were, a great battering ram with which we may open the doors of heaven."

D. Plead the Sorrows and Needs of God's People

1. David was one who took upon himself the suffering of his people. He even wept for the suffering of his enemies (Ps. 35:11-13). Nehemiah and Daniel, in particular, also used this plea greatly as they vicariously identified themselves with the sufferings of the people.
2. Jeremiah, perhaps more than others, used this form of plea as he prevailed for his people. He pleads for God to look and see the sufferings (see Lam. 2:20), and to remember, look, and see (see Lam. 5:1). In great detail he lists for God all the sufferings of the people. He does not try to justify his people, for he knows how deserving they are of God's judgment.