

Prayer

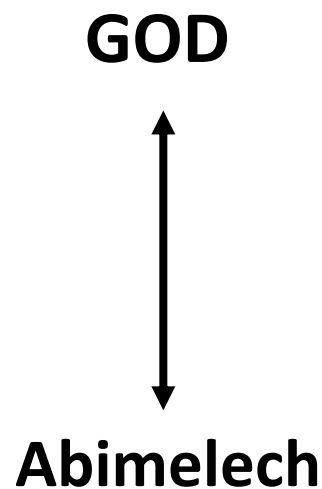
Part 1

Pray – פלל (pa'lal) =

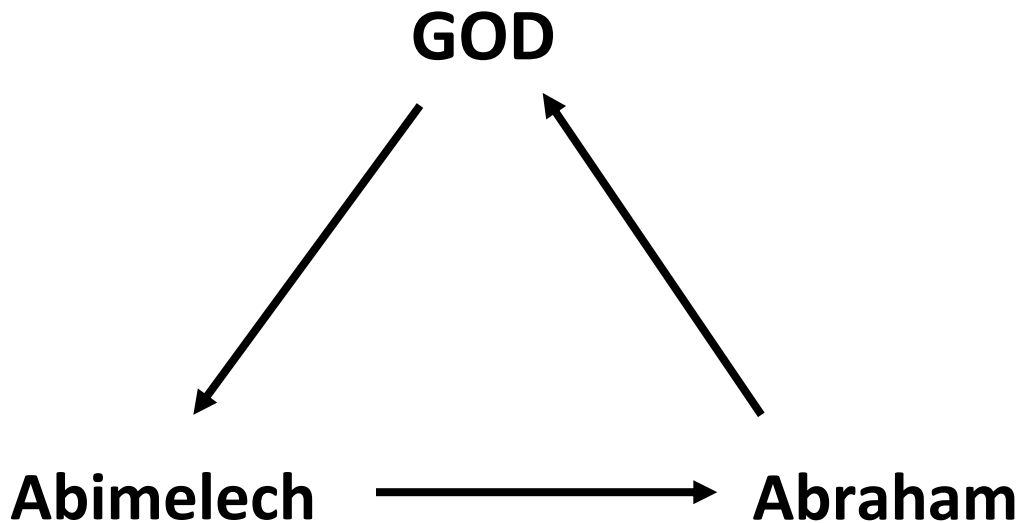
“to mediate; bring together; judge”

Genesis 48:11 – *And Israel said to Joseph, “I had not thought to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also.”*

Genesis 20:3 – *But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife.”*



Genesis 20:7 & 17 – *“Now then, return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”... Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.*



Deuteronomy 9:26 - 10:1

And I prayed to Adonai, ‘O Lord GOD, do not destroy Your people and Your heritage, whom You have redeemed through your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Do not regard the stubbornness of this people, or their wickedness or their sin, lest the land from which You brought us say, “Because Adonai was not able to bring them into the land that He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to put them to death in the wilderness.” For they are Your people and Your heritage, whom You brought out by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm.’

Prayer – תפילה (tefillah)

2 Samuel 7:27 – For you, O Adonai of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You.

In prayer we speak to a presence vaster than the unfathomable universe, yet closer to us than we are to ourselves; the God beyond, who is also the Voice within.

✪ R' Jonathon Sacks

The Transformative Power of *Tefillah*:

🌀 The story of Hannah 🌀

1 Samuel 1-2

Hannah's prayer transformed from...

- ... a prayer for her own sake into a prayer for God's will.
- ... a prayer for a temporal need into a prayer for eternal purpose.
- ... a feeling of unfairness into the joy of God's ways.
- ... a request into a vow.
- ... a gift received into a gift given.
- ... a bitter soul (1:10) into a poured-out soul (1:15).
- ... silent pain (1:13) into vocal rejoicing (2:1).

Pa'lal means: to inject a spiritual element into thoughts or conditions, infuse them with an idea, a truth, a principle, etc., and thereby integrate and unify them. Thus pa'lal, the task of the judge, who introduces justice into the midst of things, thereby turning discord into unity.

✧ R' Samson Raphael Hirsch