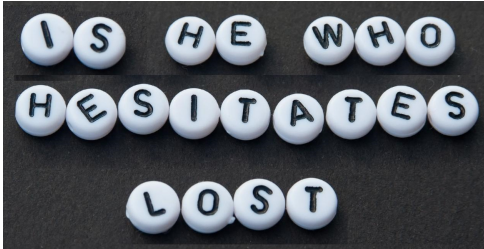


Is He Who Hesitates Really Lost? The Story of Lot

2 Peter 2:7: (NASB) *He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men.*



Life is overflowing with opportunities, and not just the big things that change our world. We are talking about the small and often overlooked chances in our everyday to refocus on the good, or to simply be kind or to elevate a conversation rather than diminish it. Many of our life experiences are because of small decisions that are actually a result of indecision. In the Old Testament, there lived a man named Lot whose life was an example of this. Lot had faith in God, and God protected him. In spite of his faith, his life experiences produced much sadness, folly and cause for regret. How did he get to such an end? He hesitated. He hesitated when it came to godly choices and constantly did “almost” enough when it came to godly actions.

In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus gives the Parable of the Ten Virgins. While all of these virgins represent those called and chosen, five of them end up being completely faithful, but five end up doing “almost” enough. We believe this shows us the difference between having faith (the “almost” group) and having conviction built upon faith (those who are completely faithful and fully enter in as the parable describes). Lot’s story illustrates the difference between these two groups.

Before Abram left his father’s house, his father left his own house:

Genesis 11:26-32: (NASB) ²⁶Terah (the name means “station”) lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. ²⁷...and Haran became the father of Lot. ²⁸Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

Abram was Lot’s uncle.

²⁹Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milcah... ³⁰Sarai was barren; she had no child. ³¹Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife; and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there. ³²The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran.

Terah, the grandfather of Lot and father of Abram, took Abram, Lot and their family away from Ur. Why did they leave? The Bible does not say, but...

(Source: Biblical commentary by Albert Barnes) The inhabitants also of Ur had fallen into polytheism, or, if we may so speak, allotheism, the worship of other gods. Terah had himself been betrayed into compliance with this form of impiety.

Lot was part of his father’s house with Abram as they fled idolatry. This gives us a beginning that makes it understandable to trace Lot’s actions in contrast to Abram’s actions regarding faithfulness.

We want to compare Lot and Abram’s actions, words and thoughts and look at our own Christianity. We will see the comparison - Abraham (as his name was later changed from Abram) is faithful. Lot is loved by God but makes many mistakes.



Lot's father's name, Haran:

Haran: Strong's #2039 *haw-rawn'* mountaineer

Lot's name:

Lot: Strong's #3876 *lote* a veil, covering

Lot, a "covered" one, was the son of the "mountaineer," a man who lived in the mountains. His heritage and his name represent to us a close-knit relationship to God through Christ.

God is said to operate from the mountains - see Psalm 121:1, Micah 4:1, Isaiah 2:3, Psalms 87:1-2, Romans 3:10 and others.

Our theme text referred to Lot as *righteous*. Righteousness in the New Testament is only in the context of the covering of Jesus, because none of us are righteous.

We see Lot as representing those who have been made righteous, whose heritage is in the mountains where God dwells.

Lot is in very good company. What could possibly go wrong when you hang out with Abraham?

We are usually in good company when we come to Christ and decide to follow him. We readily embrace the changes spirituality requires, and we generally flourish in the company of others - other Christians - who are called as we are. Then, something odd happens. God tests our character, which is what faithfulness is about. We have to be willing to be tested.



Old saying, *Hesitation and Procrastination: The Lethal Cost of Delay*, Dr. Ken Christian

- *There's an old saying: "He who hesitates is lost. She who hesitates is lost, too." There is no good thing that comes out of hesitation, postponement, delay. These are habits that erode your capacity to be present and to make decisions and take responsibility for them. You don't need more time most of the time. You do not need to tell yourself you've got to mull something and sit on it. If it feels like a good decision, here's what research shows. You are better off taking action and deciding now.*

We have to be careful because as a Christian, we have two "minds." We are using the mind of Christ, not the fleshly mind where we only want to make ourselves feel better.

What is the value of looking at Lot from the Old Testament? Our theme text from the New Testament (2 Peter 2:7) mentions him by name. This story is a comparison for us to examine. In Jesus' prophecy of his own return in Matthew 24, he told us to remember *the days of Noah*. He also told us to *remember Lot's wife*. What was it about Lot and his wife? We expect to find good lessons for the Christian.



Time went by and Lot and Abram needed to separate for the sake of their growing households and flocks. Things were getting confused and everyone was fighting with each other.

Abram gave Lot the choice of direction. This shows the quality of selflessness and Romans 12:10, *in honor preferring one another*.

The choice was between the mountainous country or green, lush pastures:
Genesis 13:11-13: (NASB) ¹¹So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. ¹²Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. ¹³Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.

Lot Saw Two Things Before Him in the Direction He Decided to Take



- 1 Fertile ground and an opportunity to flourish.**
This was the more physically attractive choice, even though there is nothing inherently wrong with lush valleys.
- 2 Clearly-defined settlements of evil.**
Lot, son of the mountaineer, chose the valley to live alongside an even worse idolatrous environment than the one he left. He was already removed from idolatry and now puts himself in harm's way. He moved his tents as far as Sodom.



Lot rationalized a choice to move closer to centers of evil in exchange for greater opportunity to physically flourish - next to Sodom! He is up close, but not involved. Lot could have stayed further away. His choice was NOT QUITE enough to keep him from evil.



Abram was unattached to any earthly real estate - his only desire was to maintain unity between all who were journeying towards God. Abram did not care if he got the better land or the worse land. He was thinking about family, as "God will take care of all of us anyway." His thinking was higher.



Do I set my own course down a spiritually sound path, or am I NOT QUITE on that path? Are my choices for the good of my family on all levels, or are they NOT QUITE good enough?

Lot could have chosen the lush fields and *not* cozied up to the evil city. He made a good choice for his family, but he allowed that choice to be sullied because he got too close.



In Genesis 18, we again see a stark contrast between Abraham and Lot. Years later, Abraham unknowingly is visited by three angels who tell him about the coming birth of Isaac. Abraham was at the door of his tent, waiting.

Abraham sees them and jumps to serve:

Genesis 18:8: (NASB) *He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed it before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.*

The calf was prepared and he was pushing everyone to go quickly and get it done. He was standing under the tree while they ate. He was serving. He did not know they were angels. You can clearly see the good character of Abraham.

As the visitors leave, one of them stays and tells Abraham about Sodom's pending destruction. Then, in Genesis 18:16-18, 20-32 comes Abraham's famous plea for the lives of any innocent people who could be found in the city.

God's love for His chosen ones is evident. Abraham's love for all people is evident as he proceeds to bargain with the Lord through the chief of the three of the messengers. This shows us Abraham's deep respect for God and acquiescence to His will.

God cared for Abraham and showed him respect by listening to him through his angelic representatives. One angel stayed behind to talk to Abraham while the other two go to Lot.

Lot sees the two angels and jumps to serve with reverence, but in a slightly different manner:

Genesis 19:1-3: (NASB) *¹Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. ²And he said, Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant's house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.*

Just like Abraham, Lot was sitting at the entrance to his home. Abraham was in his tent (a temporary dwelling) and Lot was at the gate of the city of Sodom, as he now has a home inside Sodom. Both displayed reverence and warm hospitality, but it seems as though Lot may be protecting them. It is as if he might be saying, "Hi, glad you are here! Come to my house. Relax, eat, sleep then leave at the crack of dawn. Do not stay here, as it is too evil and dangerous."

They said however, No, but we shall spend the night in the square.

They were about the business of judging the evil of the city - they were there to see it.

³Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

"Whew! I kept them from danger!" Lot is righteous. He is almost the same as Abraham but NOT QUITE. He is not engaged in it, but he is surrounded by it. Lot's dwelling is no longer a tent outside the city, but a house inside the city. How did that happen?



While Lot settled outside of the evil place, over time he became established within the evil place. Lot was NOT QUITE safe and most likely did ALMOST enough to keep evil out. The conviction

of his pleading is a result of his previous lack of conviction. He just does not have the conviction of his faith to take a strong, irrevocable stand.



Abraham was blessed to begin the lineage of the faithful. He was also blessed to plead with God, who by the giving of Isaac, would eventually solve the evil of the likes of Sodom.



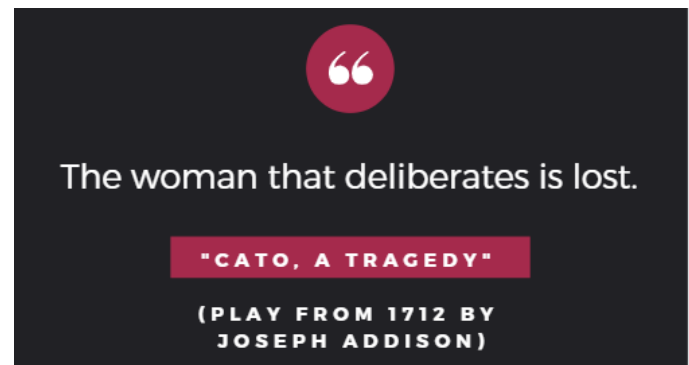
Do I plant myself too close to the line and then, as time goes on, allow that line to not only creep towards me, but actually surround me? Are my spiritual defenses NOT QUITE strong enough? NOT QUITE clear enough? NOT QUITE held tightly enough to keep me far enough away from evil?

The pressure building upon Lot's shoulders must have been immense. Could he keep his guests safe?

When we step back and look, we can see Lot really stepping up here. We do not know if he knew his guests were angels, but we do see his zeal to keep them safe. This conviction would be tested further in the next turn of events because evil has a way of building strong and dark momentum. Wherever there is evil, there is always momentum even if we do not see it.

Lot knew there was something special about these visitors. He knew they were godly and treated them with respect, bowing down. Lot was righteous - we cannot overlook his good parts. He was a good man but did not have the conviction to follow through.

Side note: The saying "He who hesitates is lost," as best as we can tell, is an adaptation from the play, "Cato, a Tragedy."



Bias toward action, *This One Brain Hack Backed by Science Will Change Your Life*, Mel Robbins

- So, the question becomes, how do you create an internal locus of control in yourself? (In personality psychology, locus of control is the degree to which people believe they have control over the outcome of events in their lives, as opposed to external forces beyond their control.) *The answer is simple.*

It's called a "bias towards action." So, a bias toward action is a psychological principle that means you're the kind of person that has a bias toward taking action instead of a bias toward thinking. How do you create a bias toward action? You guessed it...the five-second rule. The five-second rule is a tool that will teach you how to take action, and over time as you use it you not only learn how to take action, you become the kind of person that operates with a bias toward taking action. And when you take action over and over and over on your instincts, on your desires, on your commitments, guess what you get? You build an internal locus of control.

The idea is to count down, "5, 4, 3, 2, 1..." and then do something, like programming your mind. The idea is that hesitation keeps us from action. Lot is a great example, unfortunately, of this concept.

Continuing in Genesis 19:4-7, the men of Sodom surround Lot's house. Righteous Lot stands up before these wicked men alone and now pleads with them to not act wickedly. Comparing:

- Abraham pleaded with the Lord about saving righteous men from among the wicked. He wanted lives to be saved.
- Lot pleaded with wicked men to not act wickedly. Almost the same, but NOT QUITE!



To appease the wicked men, Lot offers his daughters sexually to them. This is messed up! This is a righteous man cracking under extreme pressure. It is overwhelming him. Had Lot not made his home in the very lap of evil, such a traumatic event and such a gross compromise would never have arisen.

As Christians, we must ask ourselves, "Have I planted myself in a place too close to where evil can surround me?"

Genesis 19:10-14: (NASB) ¹⁰But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. ¹¹They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway.

The angels take action and show their incredible power! They yank Lot inside and close the door. Then the wicked ones are struck blind.

¹²Then the two men said to Lot, Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you have in the city, bring them out of the place; ¹³for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it. ¹⁴Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, Up, get out of this place, for the LORD will destroy the city. But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

Those who were important to Lot did not believe him. Where were they from? They were from the city. His sons-in-law (to be) who were Sodomites had seemingly no respect for righteous Lot and his warnings. They probably would have been informed of the blindness placed upon the men of the city, but they were at home and too comfortable to care, so they laughed it off. Righteous Lot was trying to protect life, but they laughed at him.



The Tragedy of NOT QUITE

Lot obeyed his commission and spoke the truth, but because of the environment in which he had consciously placed himself, he was NOT QUITE able to convince them. He had facts and an angelic presence yet could not make the danger clear to them.

The Victory of CONVICTION

Abraham's plea was comforted, as his righteousness shone through. He had pleaded for the life of the righteous, and his prayer was answered. He asked for the right things, because he was in the right frame of mind before the tragedy came up. Lot was more about following God quietly in his household, but he was surrounded by darkness.

What is my CHOICE?

Have I planted myself in a city of Sodom? Do I obediently speak the truth, but from a compromised position? It is better to speak from a position of strength through truth.

Here we see a powerful symptom of "NOT QUITE" begin to unfold, expressed in an attitude of HESITATION.

Genesis 19:15-16: (NASB) ¹⁵When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city. ¹⁶But he hesitated.

This was a Selah ("pause and consider") moment. After all Lot had seen and been given, he was still attached:

...So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city.



The angels knew there was no time for hesitation.



Last year, I was watching out our house window looking at a storm. I did not know it was a tornado. There was a moment when I heard trees breaking and knew I could not hesitate. I immediately went down to the basement. We had 20 trees on our property that fell all around the house, but not on it, by God's grace.

Lot unsuccessfully warned others to leave, but when it came right down to it, he himself had second thoughts. He and his family literally had to be dragged out of the city like a child having a tantrum being dragged out of a store.

The Tragedy of NOT QUITE

Lot here displayed faith, but not full conviction.



Abraham is not even a factor in this part of the story. Why? He was safe and was fully convicted that the mercy and judgment of God would rightly prevail. Abraham did not have to do anything.

There was no choice or wondering. There was just the peace of God, because he was far away. He chose to live a harder life in the farther-away mountains.



Do I tend toward the Lot approach or the Abraham approach?
Do I have the genuine conviction of faith needed when I have a
Thus saith the Lord before me?

Thus saith the Lord is a focused direction in us, where His power and influence are guiding us. When we have God's Spirit before us, will we hesitate or act?

**Lot has now seen a miracle of protection, and yet he hesitated.
What could he have been thinking?**

While we cannot determine Lot's thoughts, we can observe his situation and speculate. Lot had lived in this environment for some time and was comfortable. His whole way of life was now set for destruction. Perhaps he believed the angels, but was not convicted enough to decisively walk away. In our Christian lives, do we have the Lot attitude when it comes to walking away from the darkness close by?

 Do good, be good, *This One Brain Hack Backed by Science Will Change Your Life*, Mel Robbins

- The third principle is "do good, be good." Now, this is a principle that I first learned about from legendary psychological researcher and University of Virginia professor, Timothy Wilson. Basically, it means that you can't think your way to being happier or better; you have actually got to do something. Now, this do good, be good philosophy dates all the way back to Aristotle, and it's based on the belief, and now the proven technique, that in order to change, you can't think your way to being more positive; you've got to do things. You've got to act, and then your mind will follow.

When we are faced with the darkness in the world, are we curious about it? Are we comfortable with it? Or do we stay far away from it like Abraham?

The account goes on with more hesitation:



- 1 Do not look back.
- 2 Leave the valley.
- 3 Go to the mountains.

Genesis 19:17-22: (NASB) ¹⁷When they had brought them outside, one said, Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.



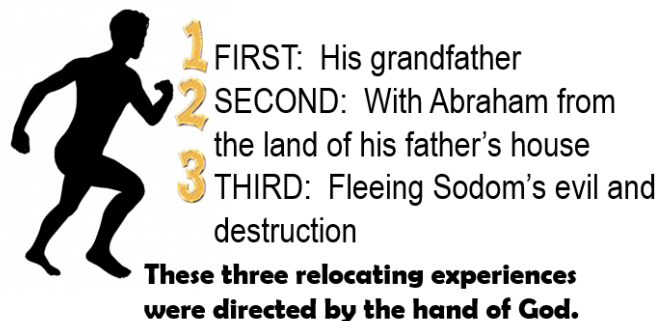
¹⁸But Lot said to them, Oh no, my lords! (Did he actually just say "no" to the angels?!) ¹⁹Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, for the disaster will overtake me and I will die; ²⁰now behold, this town is near enough to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved.

The angels knew what they were doing. Would they tell him to go all the way to the mountains if they did not think he could make it? Why was Lot second guessing them?

²¹He said to him, Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken. ²²Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there. Therefore the name of the town was called Zoar.

Zoar means "tiny."

Lot's History Was Fleeing Wickedness



Lot, the "covered" one (the covering of Jesus' sacrifice), son of the mountaineer (mountains are God's dwelling place), pleaded to NOT go to the mountains but instead to a "tiny" city (perhaps showing a lesser sinfulness - but still not the refuge of the mountains). He should have gone where he was told to go! Do we get stuck, too, on the NOT QUITE and not follow through on what WE have to do?



Lot had been literally directed three times by God. He was taken along the first two times by Terah, then Abraham, but now when on his own, compromises the destination. He says, "I want to go here instead." He is compromising on a place that an ANGEL told him to go!



Abraham had never stopped dwelling in his tents in the high lands and therefore was inherently safe from the destruction that was to happen in the valley. His life was about serving God.



Do I have the genuine conviction of faith to follow through even as the Lord guides me? Does my own fear of what may happen along the way alter my destination? Is my fear overcoming the command of God?

The final hesitation:

Genesis 19:23-26: (NASB) ²³The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, ²⁵and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶But his wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

The fact that Lot's wife is not named brings us to a possible conclusion that she was representing a part of the hesitation of Lot himself. For those with faith but a lack of conviction, a part of them in a sense "dies" as they flee the sinful world reluctantly. Lot continues to a better place - a place of "tiny" sin but not to the place he was told to go - the place of godliness, the mountains. Lot's wife ends up dying as a result of hesitation because of her longing for what was left behind.

Genesis 19:27-29: (NASB) ²⁷Now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the LORD; ²⁸and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace. ²⁹Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived.

Abraham is observing from a distance the destruction that was going to come. God kept His promise - He DID save the righteous ones: Lot and his family.



Lot did flee Sodom and the destruction but suffered great loss in the process. He left a part of him behind as he fled. Lot's hesitation here, pictured by his wife, shows a double-minded attitude. "I am running away, but I am attached to what I am running from."



Abraham sees the destruction from afar. God remembered Abraham in two ways. First, He did rescue any righteous from destruction. Second, the birth of the promised seed, Isaac, was announced before the destruction, reminding us of God's plan of the Lamb being slain before the foundation of the world.



Do I ever suffer loss as a result of my own half-hearted fleeing from the bad choices of my own life? When I finally decide to go, is it with conviction or confusion?

**Lot escapes, even though he goes kicking and screaming.
Does he ever get to the mountains?**

The last recorded event in Lot's life, which followed this, was heartbreakingly sad. Lot and his two daughters finally do get to the mountains, and there he is defiled by his daughters while he is drunk. They both later beget sons. These sons became the Moabites and the Amorites, both very rebellious peoples against God and against the nation of Israel. So, he finally arrives, but it is still



in a polluted manner. What is even sadder is that this is the last time we hear anything about Lot. We do not know what happened to him.



Even though Lot finally did get to the mountains, the damage had been done. The vile circumstances his daughters had been living in led them to faithless actions which led to a faithless legacy.

Is that the way we want our Christianity to unfold? This story is a wake-up tool for us. What legacy will we leave behind?



Abraham had remained faithfully convicted and was blessed with a son, Isaac, the seed of promise, through which all families of the earth would be blessed. Lot's legacy was something we would want to forget. Abraham's legacy was something we would *never* forget. Jesus Christ comes from the lineage of Isaac, and Jesus is the savior of the world.



Am I in a place in my walk of discipleship that leaves an open door to a legacy of anything less than spiritual obedience and sacrifice? We do not want to leave the door open for other things to come in. We have to make these choices!

 Habits - behavior, *This One Brain Hack Backed by Science Will Change Your Life*, Mel Robbins

- All researchers believe that habits come down to one golden rule, and that's this: You can never change the things that trigger you. You can't control your urges or how you might feel, but you can always choose how you behave. If you want to break a habit, once you have a habit, it's always going to be encoded in your brain. The only way that you can break it is to replace it with new behavior. There's also something in the research around habits called a "starting ritual." A starting ritual is a repeated behavior that you adopt in order to trigger a new habit.

This is very powerful. We cannot change the things that trigger us, but we choose how we respond. Lot had a lot of fear and insecurity. Although he had the tools around him to make better choices, he did not follow through.

Even if we are faltering, there is still hope we can again find our conviction:

2 Peter 2:7-9: (NASB) ⁷And if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men ⁸(for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented (touchstone) day after day by their lawless deeds), ⁹then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation (do I want to be rescued?), and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.

The Greek word for *tormented* is "touchstone." This was a stone people in the marketplace kept under their table. When someone gave them money, they could rub the edge of the coin on the stone. The color streak told them if it was a legitimate coin or a fake.



This shows us that Lot's righteous soul was tested to see what it was made of. He was righteous but continually made bad choices. God can rescue the godly from temptation if we let Him.

Do I want to be rescued? Many times, we get into situations where we would rather not. We rationalize our way around it, because we are comfortable. Lot was also comfortable. Lot's experiences show us we are also susceptible to "NOT QUITE."

First, we must focus on conviction:

Jude 1:20-23: (NASB) ²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Aren't we supposed to be *anxious for nothing*? Why doesn't this tell us to wait patiently? The idea of *waiting anxiously* is knowing that God's providence will be bigger and better. There is an anxiousness to see His providence unfold. We are waiting anxiously because it is exciting to see how God's providence works it out. Sometimes His providence drags us through the mud. Can we look back with thankfulness? It is one thing to say, "I believe." It is another to live that belief.

Second, we must reach out to those whose conviction is faltering:

²²And have mercy on some, who are doubting; ²³save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

Sometimes we fall and make horrible choices. The consequences are worse. If we are Christlike in our desire to help one another, we are always willing to reach out a hand and help others find their feet and the way forward. Lot had angels to help him but was too stuck in "what was" and could not see "what could be."



The story of Lot helps us better understand this quote. How many times was it a NOT QUITE situation?

To clearly observe our own conviction, we need to clearly observe what we are building with:

1 Corinthians 3:12-15: (NASB) ¹²Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

There are two groups of building materials. Gold, silver and precious stones have incredible lasting value. Wood, hay and straw rot and fall away. What we are building with will be revealed. Abraham built with gold, silver and precious stones. Lot built with wood, hay and straw.



LESSONS FROM



Do NOT go along just because you can; go along with the conviction that this is YOUR clear path. Lot went along with Terah and Abraham. But it sounds like Lot just went along for the ride. He did not own the travel; he did not own

getting away from the idolatry. He did it because it was the convenient thing to do. Our Christianity cannot be like that. It must be full of strength, depth and conviction. We are walking this godly road by choice. We do not just go along to get along. Go because you are convicted.

LESSONS FROM



Do NOT allow attachment to what is comfortable be a cause for HESITATION - take your next steps with the conviction of Christ. There was a lot of attachment to the city, the house and the family. We all have earthly attachments, but we should not allow our earthly attachment to cause hesitation when it comes to our conviction in Christ.

*Do not let attachment
to what is comfortable
keep us from being spiritual.*



LESSONS FROM



When given a *Thus saith the Lord*, do not negotiate. Instead, follow as though your life depends on it. Is my Christianity "Lot-like" or "Abraham-like"? When we look at them next to each other, we see such a difference.

Am I going to live the tragedy of "NOT QUITE" or the victory of conviction? We need to get up, ask for forgiveness and walk the true road of faith with conviction.

*So, is he who hesitates really lost?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on March 18, 2019:

Ep. #1065: "What Was Jesus' Top Priority?"

Bonus Material!

On the plains of hesitation bleach the bones of countless millions who, at the dawn of decision, sat down to wait, and waiting, died. — Sam Ewing

One other incident in Lot's life, after he and Abraham separated but several years before the destruction of Sodom, that we did not have time to cover...

This shows us his propensity to be in trouble based upon his decisions:

Genesis 14:1-3: (NASB) ¹And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, ²that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). ³All these came as allies to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).

Genesis 14:10-24: (NASB) ¹⁰Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country. ¹¹Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed. ¹²They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom. ¹³Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram. ¹⁴When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. ¹⁶He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people. ¹⁷Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. ¹⁹He blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. He gave him a tenth of all. ²¹The king of Sodom said to Abram, Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself. ²²Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, ²³that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, I have made Abram rich. ²⁴I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share.

A New Testament text that illustrates the issue above:

Galatians 6:1: (NASB) Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Amos, lamenting and prophesying the waywardness of Israel, gives many examples of God chastising them and yet they would not return to Him:

Amos 4:11-13: (NASB) ¹¹I overthrew you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze; Yet you have not returned to Me, declares the LORD. ¹²Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel. ¹³For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness and treads on the high places of the earth, The LORD God of hosts is His name.

Hesitation brought into the time of Jesus' return:

Luke 17:31-34: (NASB) ³¹On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. ³²Remember Lot's wife. ³³Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. ³⁴I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.



Our day is the day prophesied about in this text. Jesus is telling us to run with conviction from the sin of this world and to not look back with a desire for that which we are called to leave behind.

(Source: Biblical commentary from Matthew Poole) The Moabites were a mischievous and infamous people, branded, as their brethren also the Ammonites were, with characters of God's displeasure.

(Source: The Pulpit Commentary) The same is the father of the children of Ammon – an unsettled people who occupied the territory between the Yabbok and the Arnon, from which they had ejected the Rephaims or Zamzummims, (Deuteronomy 2:22) and in which they possessed a strong city, Rabbah; (2 Samuel 11:1) in their habits more migratory and marauding than the Moabites, (Isaiah 15 and 16; Jeremiah 48) and in their religion worshippers of Molech, "the abomination of the Ammonites" (1 Kings 11:7) unto this day.

Deuteronomy 2:9: (NASB) *Then the LORD said to me, Do not harass Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession.*

Deuteronomy 2:19: (NASB) *When you come opposite the sons of Ammon, do not harass them nor provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot as a possession.*

The wickedness of the sons of Lot revealed in prophecy:

Psalms 83:1-8: (NASB) ¹O God, do not remain quiet; do not be silent and, O God, do not be still. ²For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted themselves. ³They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones. ⁴They have said, Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more. ⁵For they have conspired together with one mind; against You they make a covenant: ⁶the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites; ⁷Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; ⁸Assyria also has joined with them; they have become a help to the children of Lot. Selah.

