

**Series: Thriving in Faith (2/19/17)**

**Title: Intercession in Faith**

**Text: (Genesis 18:16-31)**

### **III. God's announcement of judgment against Sodom:**

**16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.**

(Ch 19:1) confirms the other 2 "Men" were angels.

**17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;**

**"the LORD"** - Theophany: God the Father in human form.

(Vs 13, 22, 33) Confirms it (JEHOVAH)-Self Existent

**18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?**

Reconfirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant.

*It really should be referred to as "God's Covenant".*

God made this covenant without relying on the help of Abraham to fulfill it.

*Just like God made with us the Covenant of Salvation:*

God is not looking to us to keep up our end!

*Marriage Covenant is the same way:*

I made a covenant with my wife, & I am not looking to her to keep it for both of us I am taking personal responsibility for it

**19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.**

*"For I know him,"* (Ps 139:1-6)

*"that he will command his children and his household after him,"*

Oh! that God could have that kind of confidence in me!  
Is God able to have that kind of confidence in you?

It is up to us *Parents* to be the *Parents*. (Eph 6:4)

The children are to be conformed into adulthood, not the adults conformed to the child.

**20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;**

28 references comparing sinfulness to that of Sodom.

5 references to the Specific Sin named for that city.

**21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.**

Doesn't He know? - Isn't He God? *Yes,*

The devil is a master at lying & accusing God of unrighteousness.

*God will not allow Himself to unjustly accused.*

He will go and physically see for Himself.

*There will be no one at the Great White Throne Judgement who will have a legal leg to stand on.*

God has the Goods on all of US!  
(1 Pet 2:23b) *but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

(Ps 51:4) *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*  
(Rom 14:11-12) we will give an account!

**22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.**

Abraham knew Lot was back in Sodom.  
We all look on helplessly as our loved ones go back to their sin.

We feel helpless, and even despair.

### **Preach on Compromise with the World**

Research Lot pitching his tent toward Sodom (Gen 13:5-13)  
Then Lot ends up in Sodom. (Gen 14:11-12)  
Abraham delivers Lot from captivity.  
Then the Angels find Lot as a Ruler/elder (Gen 19:1,9)  
(Vs 1) *Sat in the Gate of Sodom:* as a Civic Leader.  
(Vs 9) *This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them.*

Abraham does the Only thing we can.  
Abraham Intercedes for Lot.  
Abraham launches into Spiritual Warfare for his brother.

### **IV. Abraham's begins his Spiritual Warfare with Intercessory prayer:**

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

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

*Illus:* He doesn't take the attitude of pride.

*Well, this is what he gets!*

(Gal 6:1) Abraham takes the Initiative.

*Research: Making the Distinction Righteous/wicked.*

*God condemns the Priests in Ezek for not doing this.*

**25 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?**

Abraham does not make his personal will the focus of his prayer.

The basic reasons we don't receive what we want from God.

1. We don't Ask! (James 4:2)

Basically we would rather Scheme than Supplicate.

B/c our pride doesn't get fed this way.

*In Sales, we learned, you don't get what you don't ask for!*

2. We make the asking about us! (James 4:3)

*"God please save my husband b/c he is terrible to live with"*

*"God save this person, so they will be a better husband."*

*"God speak to my wife our marriage is in trouble, our kids are suffering because she is so hard to get along with."*

**Abraham makes this about God's Will & God's Testimony!**  
**Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**

God you will open yourself up for ridicule.

(Ezek 33:11) *Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

(2 Pet 3:9) *Not willing any should perish.*

*“Oh God, Please perfect your Will in sparing Sodom.”*

When we intercede to do spiritual battle for someone, we cannot make it about us!

God doesn't answer Selfish Prayers. (James 4:3)

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

**Abraham continues in Humility: (Gal 6:1-3)**

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

*“I know Lord it just as easily could be me!”*

**But that is the problem.**

We think because it isn't us, we are somehow better, b/c we didn't let it happen to us.

We are somehow Smarter, More Spiritual, a Better Person.

(Rom 12:3) *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

Momma said: *“Don't get too big for your britches”.*

We are all just one bad decision from a wrecked life.

*“but to think soberly”* - I guarantee you none of US see Ourselves through the lens of Reality.

That is why we must walk daily in the Word, and submission to the Holy Spirit.

**Do you know how to do that?**

Daily, look God in the eye by reading His Word.

The Word of God is s Mirror: (James 1:22-25)

Daily, Asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of God's word and apply it.

*“Holy Spirit, Am I guilty of this sin?”*

*“Holy Spirit, Is there someone I need to Seek forgiveness from*

*“Holy Spirit, Is there someone I need to Forgive?”*

**How Long has it been since you were CLEAN?**

(1 Jn 1:8,10) *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

(Is 59:1-4) *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. 4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.*

Daily Memorize a verse God points out to you so you can have the Holy Spirit apply it to us by Mediating upon it. (Josh 1:8)(Ps 1:3) Meditating.

**Abraham Continues His Assault on the Fortresses of Hell!**

**28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for *lack of five*? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy *it*.**

**29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do *it* for forty's sake.**

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

**31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for twenty's sake.**

**32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for ten's sake.**

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

How does Spiritual Warfare work?  
How do we battle?

Strongholds?