

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 form 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 a 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*.

How does Spiritual Warfare work?

How do we battle?

Strongholds?

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.