

**Series: Thriving in Faith**

**Title: Overcoming By Faith**

**Text:** (Gen 14)(Rom 4:3)

There is a War Raging all around us. - An Invisible War.

It is an unseen battle, very real.

We are not fighting Flesh and Blood.

We are fighting a Spiritual war against Principalities, Powers.

The War is against you, your family, your future.

Against Life, Truth, beauty, Holiness, everything important.

You cannot afford to be Neutral or Ignorant.

Reality is, there is no Neutrality.

Our Enemies in this War are the World (External Foe),

Flesh (Internal Foe), & the Devil (Infernal Foe).

Every Human fights these 3 -

The World, The Flesh, & the Devil.

**I. Abram Overcame the Devil to Rescue a Brother:**

(Gen 14:1-9) - ***Explain The Law of First Mention***

This is the First Mention of WAR in the Bible -

The cities located on the south shore of the Dead Sea (Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar) had been subjugated by a confederacy of kings to the east headed by Chedorlaomer.

***A coalition of Four kings***

(Amraphel, king of Shinar {Babylon},

Arioch, king of Ellasar,

Chedorlaomer, king of Elam {later called Persia},

Tidal, king of Nations (group of city-states of various nations)

made war against the rebellious city states.

(Gen 14:10-11) The Battle Went Badly for them!

(Gen 12:12) *And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.*

**How did Lot get into this mess?** (Gen 13:9-13)

Lot chose to go to that Wicked City, Sodom.

Sodomy is named after this city, and its a vile sin against God.

So why did Lot choose to go to Sodom? ***Wealth!***

(Gen 13:10) Thanks to Abram and Egypt, Lot had Cattle.

The grass was tall and sweet in that direction, so why not?

He did not Go there to Witness, nor to Worship, ***Just Wealth!***

Money is not the most important reason to voluntarily move.

Is there a gospel preaching church there? ***NO!***

So Is God calling you to plant one? ***NO!***

Is "GOD" the one calling you there? ***Probably Not!***

**After Lot moved there for the wrong reason...**

***Lot got into Sodom, and then Sodom got into him!***

(James 4:4) Friendship with the World, enemy of God!

(1 Jn 2:15-17) Love of the World

(Rom 12:2) He conformed to the World

(1 Cor 11:32) then he was judged with he World.

I am not saying that every Christian gets into trouble by going to bad places. It's about WHY you are going there!

***Joseph*** went into Egypt, he didn't let Egypt influence him.

He was God's Ambassador to those wicked people.

***Daniel*** went into Babylon, he didn't let Babylon influence

him. He stood up for the Lord!

**Nehemiah** went to Persia, he didn't let Persia influence him.  
**Nehemiah** witnessed for the Lord & was God's Ambassador.

**Paul** went to Corinth, The Las Vegas of his day!  
He didn't let Corinth influence him.  
He testified for the Lord Jesus there.

### **What Happened to Lot?**

He went down for the Wrong Reason, with the Wrong Motive & became captive of the World, of his Flesh, and of the Devil.

### **Word comes to Abram that Lot is captured, Proving...**

*"You are who you run with!" (Gen 13:13)*  
(Prov 13:20) *He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.*

(Gen 14:11-13) *"Hebrew"* 1st mention, means "Stranger".  
It was given to him, like Ana-Baptist/Baptist was to us.  
(Heb 11:9\*,13) *sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country,*

### **Abram could have responded like...**

**Satan & Return Evil for Good:** Threw his hands up, and said,  
*"Never could tell that kid anything, he gets what he deserves"*

### **Animal & Returned Evil with Evil:**

**Human & responded with a Debit or Credit system:**  
*You scratch my back, I will scratch yours.*

### **Abrams chose to respond at the Highest level, as God Would, & Return Good for Evil:**

(Gen 14:14) referred to Lot as his brother.  
Dan, northern most territory of future Israel.

Lot had treated Abram poorly in the past.  
Lot didn't appreciate Abram's Faith.  
But Abram had decided to do him good.

***He doesn't refer to Lot as his nephew, but as his brother.***  
(Gen 12:14a) *And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive,*

Everyone of us knows a brother/sister in Christ who has been taken captive by Satan.

(Gal 6:1-2) *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

**"Overtaken"** ~ literally means **Captured**, like Lot was.  
**"ye which are spiritual"** ~ That's Abram.  
**"restore such an one"**

- ~ People who get into sin, can be restored!
- ~ Somebody who has been Ambushed by the Devil, can be restored!

### **Good People Fall!**

#### **Satan is in the Business of taking people Captive!**

Good People get Ambushed by Satan.

Good People get Surprised By Sin.

**Jonah-** Ran from God, 3 night stay Foam Blubber Mattress.

**Sampson-** The Heavy Weight Champion of the OT.

**Peter-**Cursed, Swore, Denied the Lord/Preacher of Pentecost.

**David-** Man after God's own heart, restored to Pen Psalms 51

**What are we to do with a brother taken captive like Lot?**

***Ignore their plight?*** “Well it’s none of my business.”

***Criticize them?*** “Shame on him, being captured by Sodomites

***Condemn them?***

“Christianity is the only army that shoots its own wounded.”

***So, Are you Spiritual?*** here’s how you restore a Captive.

(Gal 6:1) *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one **in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.***

**“in the spirit of meekness;”** Gently - same Greek word means “to Set a Broken Bone” - ***Tender loving care!***

***Remember: any contact hurts with a broken bone!***

Don’t be Harsh, or overbearing with that person.

***You can be Harsh & Overbearing with Satan.***

Abram went to war with these kings that represented Satan.

He did not spare them. - ***With Lot, Abram was Gentle.***

You will never restore anyone unless you are gentle.

**“considering thyself,”** -

***There is no one incapable of being captured by sin.***

Just as easily could have been you!

***When A child of God, captured by Satan in sin,***

His fellowship with God is Broken.

His Conscience is Bothering him.

He is ashamed & humiliated.

Don’t you think they would have if they knew how?

***Note: Otherwise he is Lost! & A Christian in name only!***

***The devil binds them with Accusations. & Condemnation.***

“You’re No Good!”

“What if the church find out?”

“Your family will hate you!”

“God doesn’t Care, you are not Saved!”

“Everyone would be better off if you were dead!”

***To restore them sympathetically we must bear there burdens***

(Gal 6:2) *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

**Abram went to War with the Devil to Rescue a Brother:**

(Gen 14:15-16) *And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.*

***Are we willing to battle Satan for our Brethren?***

**I. Abram Overcame the Devil to Rescue a Brother:**

**II. Abram Overcame the World to Receive a Blessing:**

(Gen 14:17-18) *And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.*

**2 Kings came out to meet Abram after his victory**

Bera, King of Sodom.

Melchizedek king of Salem

The 4 Kings that carried away Lot Captive represented Satan.

(Gen 14:2) Bera, King of Sodom.

He represents everything wicked & vile in the World.  
Bera, wouldn't normally give Abram the time of day.

The King of Sodom comes out to meet him, from where?  
From hiding. (Gen 12:10) Snowflake!  
The going got tough, so they quit & left it to others.

***Bera, King of Sodom is a wicked King represents the World.***

He wants to rule, but doesn't want to do the heavy lifting.  
*We have raised a generation who wants it all, but has no  
concept of sacrifice or hard work!*

***Melchizedek king of Salem represented the Savior.***

***Melchizedek*** is described in (Heb 7:1-3)

*For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high  
God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the  
kings, and **blessed him**; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth  
part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness,  
and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;  
Without father, without mother, without descent, having  
neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto  
the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

*Melchizedek ~ King of Righteousness*

*Salem ~ King of Peace*

*Without father, without mother, without descent~ Eternal King*

*Without Birth/Death/ Always Was! That's my Savior!*

*but made like unto the Son of God - Christophany:*

*Appearance of Christ in human form, before His birth in  
Bethlehem.*

**Abram was met by 2 Kings:**

King of Sodom, representing the World.  
King of Salem, representing God.

**Both offered him a Blessing:**

***King of Sodom offered him the Spoils of War:***

(Gen 14:21) *And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me  
the persons, and take the goods to thyself.*

Worldly, Temporary Blessings:

***King of Salem offered Eternal Blessings:***

(Matt 6:19-20) *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon  
earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves  
break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures  
in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and  
where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

***Both Kings wanted Abram's heart!*** (Matt 6:21) *For where  
your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

***Why did the King of Sodom only want the people back?***

His wealth was in Salt.

The region was loaded with it, He could always get more.  
He needed the work force, he could always get stuff.

***That's the World's mindset:***

*Love Things, Use People, Get what you want.*

***God's mindset:***

*Love Me, Serve People, Get your needs met.*

***These same 2 Kings will meet you after every Victory:***

Both want your heart.

***The World does not understand our Midset & Values:***

(1 Pet 4:4) *Wherein they think it STRANGE that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:*

***First Mention of tithing: 400yrs before the law!***

(Gen 14:20c) *And he gave him tithes of all*

(Heb 7:4) *unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils*

**Why did Abram tithes?**

***He Saw The Grace of God:*** (Gen 14:18) *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: ...*

Symbol of the Lord's Supper, We have the Gospel Message!

(Matt 26:26) *Take, Eat, This is my body...*

(1 Cor 11:24) *that is broken for you!*

I Owe Him all things! (Rom 12:1) *Reasonable Service!*

***He Saw The Greatness of God:*** (Gen 14:22) *And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,*

When you ring your Tithe in on Sunday Morning, you are saying, "God, I believe that all things belong to you!"

***Its a Sign of Worship!***

***He Saw The Goodness of God:*** (Gen 14:20) *And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand...*

God has been SO Good to Abram.

***He Saw The Glory of God:*** (Gen 14:21-23) *And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:*

(Acts 7:2) *And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,*

**The Testimony of God's Deliverance is at stake:**

Abram was saying:

I will not Align myself with the World.

I will not Identify myself with the World.

I will not be Bought by the World.

***These 2 Kings will meet you after every Victory:***

Both want your heart.

Both are offering you something. 1 Worldly, 1 Eternal.

**Abram Overcame the Devil to Rescue a Brother:**

**Abram Overcame the World to Receive a Blessing:**

**III. Abram Overcame the Flesh to Recommit His Belief:**

(Gen 15:1-6\*) *And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

***Abram just overcame a huge temptation from the King of Sodom:*** *Right when he needed it most, Christ showed up to encourage Abram in his integrity. (Gen 14:18)*

**(Gen 15:1) God Spoke!**

*After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*

Abram didn't need the Protection or Provision of the King of Sodom.

Abram had all he needed in God.

**God made him a promise about having children:**

(Gen 12:2)

Abram is 10 years older now from (Gen 12) where he was 75.  
He is now 85 years old.

Abram sees his failing Flesh!

*Illus: As we get older our bodies begin to fail us in ways we had not anticipated.*

*Our spirit is still 25, but our body hasn't the same attitude.*

*Vs 2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless,*

He knew how old he was! He was 85 yrs Old.  
He wasn't going to be able to Father children in his condition.  
He had NO Confidence in his ability to fulfill God's promise.

***Abram had his own plan to fulfill God's promise:***

(Vs 2b-3) Abram's plan was a work of the flesh!  
(Gen 14:14-16) I know that Abram should have seen God at work in the battle to save Lot.

There is something about having a hand in it that fools us into believing we can bring it pass.

***10 years, no further communication, Its tough not to have a backup plan of some kind!***

(Gen 15:4-5) God makes him the promise again!

***The Bedrock of our Faith is The "I Will's Of God's Word!"***  
God will not make us believe.

(Gen 15:8) Abram is asking God for a little Verification this was God, and not a dream.

(Gen 15:9-10) Ancient Custom of passing through the sacrifice to confirm a covenant.

In making the covenant with Abram, God in symbolic fashion passed between the divided animals laid out upon the ground.

It may have foreshadowed the pillar of fire, or the Shekinah glory, to God being a consuming fire, or perhaps to Him as light.

**Abram Overcame the Flesh to Recommit His Belief:**

(Gen 15:6) Abram Believed! (AMEN!) - ***Here is the Victory!***  
Abram believed God when his FLESH said, NO WAY!

(Heb 11:12) *Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*

(Heb 11:13) *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them,*

***Abram took God at His Word & God Showed UP!***

Vs 17-18 The proof of our Faith! The Presence of God!

**Abram Overcame the Devil to Rescue a Brother:**

**Abram Overcame the World to Receive a Blessing:**

**Abram Overcame the Flesh & Recommitted to a Belief:**