

DEEPER TEACHINGS
(MEAT OF THE WORD)

#54

LOT AND THE JUDGMENT

By Sam Fife



According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:10

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Let's begin this study with Chapter 13 of Genesis and the fifth verse. Because our scriptural study covers a large portion of scripture from Genesis 13 through Genesis 19, we are simply going to read excerpts from these chapters, those being the scriptures which are pertinent and important to our study today. Read along with us.

Gen 13:5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. 6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. 8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we *be* brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if *thou wilt take* the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou depart* to the right hand, then I will go to the left. 10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. 12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom *were* wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly. 14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. 16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered. 17 Arise, walk through

the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

In Chapter 18 verses 16-33 and in Chapter 19 verses 1-29, we have recorded that three angels came to Abraham's tent there in the land of Canaan. They revealed to him that Sarah was going to have a son. Then after they had revealed to him that Sarah was going to have a son, Verse 16 says: And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

Gen 18:17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; 18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 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. 20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 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. 22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. 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? 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? 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. 27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which *am but* dust and ashes: 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

spoke 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.

Gen 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; 2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. 3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. 4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: 5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. 6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, 7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. 8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as *is* good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. 9 And they said, Stand back. And they said *again*, This one *fellow* came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them.

And they pressed sore upon the man, *even* Lot, and came near to break the door. 10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. 11 And they smote the men that *were* at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. 12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides a son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters? and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring *them* out of this place: 13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. 14 And Lot went out, and spoke unto his sons-in-law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law. 15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. 16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. 17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. 18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: 19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: 20 Behold now, this city *is* near to flee unto, and it *is* a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (*is* it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. 21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. 22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. 23 The sun was risen upon the earth

when Lot entered into Zoar. 24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. 26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. 27 And Abraham got up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: 28 and he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. 29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

Now, in order to see beyond all shadow of doubt, that what we have read here is a type and a prophecy of what is going to happen to this world and its system, which is the Sodom and Gomorrah of the whole world, in these last days, we need only to remember the words of Jesus, "As it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man."

Lot and his family, in those past days, were a type of the worldly Christian who is so enamored of the things of this world that he doesn't want to let them go, and therefore will escape the judgment that comes upon this world, only so as by fire. We all need to remember the words of Jesus when he spoke of the last judgment that is coming upon this world. And he said, "Remember Lot's wife," who was so enamored of the material things that she possessed, that she couldn't let them go. She continued to look back toward them, and she became a dead thing with no life in her, a pillar of salt.

With that in view, we go back and we study Lot's experience and the experience of Sodom and Gomorrah, and in doing so, we can see exactly what is going to happen to the Christians in the world today who are so enamored with the material things of the world that they don't want to let

them go, so that they might escape the judgment that is going to come upon this world.

To begin with, in our study, we see that when God called Abraham to come out of Egypt and to go into Canaan land, Lot, his nephew, also went out of Egypt with him. Egypt is always a type of this world. Canaan land is always a type of our "Promised Land" that God has given to us.

So Lot moved out of Egypt with Abraham and he went into Canaan land with Abraham. But when God began to bless Abraham and Lot, and they began experiencing the blessings of God, there was strife between Abraham's family and Lot's family, and the two could no longer get along together. This was because Abraham was spiritual and Lot was carnal. This was because Lot had a heart that was hungry for the material possessions of this world, and for this reason his people began to strive against Abraham's people, therefore they had to separate. And Abraham being the man of God that he was, refused to strive against Lot in any way, whatsoever. He said alright, you can have first choice, all the land is before us, you choose what you want and I'll take what's left.

Here we have revealed to us the character, the Christian character of this man Abraham, always willing to put his brother first. This is also the character God has called us to, and that all who are spiritual, will have.

Then the Bible says that Lot looked toward the plains of Zoar, and because they were well watered, even as a garden, and because they offered to him the best opportunity for great material gain, instead of remaining in the land of Canaan with Abraham where God had told them to go, Lot chose the plains of Zoar and he went down and dwelt among the Sodomites in the plains of Zoar. Now Lot knew that the Sodomite people had become so under the dominion of Satan that they were the wickedest of all people. They were so possessed by Satan's demoniac kingdom that they had all become homosexuals, they had sunk unto the very depths of depravity. Lot knew that this was their condition, yet

because of his desire for material gain, instead of being willing to dwell with the people of God, with Abraham who was walking in the promise of God, he went down and dwelt among the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, because his heart cried out for the material gain which could be gained thereby. In doing so he was a perfect type of the millions of Christians in the church today, who have come out of Egypt, just as Lot came out of Egypt with Abraham; they have been saved, they are a part of the church of Jesus Christ, but they cannot get along with the spiritual people of God, those who are moving on into God's promised land. They cannot walk with the Abrahams of this world who move on into the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the deeper walk in God and who will remain in Canaan, therefore they separate themselves from those who are walking in the Spirit. They will follow the carnal brand of Christianity; they will dwell in the midst of the people of this world, of which Sodom was a type. They reject the truth of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the manifestations of the spirit; they refuse to move into this deeper walk in God, because they know it means leaving the world completely behind. They know their friends will look down on them; they know their business connections will suffer, many of them, and they would rather dwell in the midst of the world, among the devil's people, and go on in worldly carnal Christianity, than to move into the deep walk of the Spirit of God. Because of the material gain that it will afford them, like Lot, they choose the plains of Zoar, and to dwell among the people of Sodom of this world, instead of walking in full fellowship with those who are moving on in the Spirit of God, of whom Abraham is a type. In a moment, we will see what this will cost them, when God's judgment comes upon the world, but first let's see what God said to Abraham after Lot was separated from him.

Gen 13:14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and

eastward, and westward: 15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.

After Abraham was separated from Lot, God said unto him, lift up thine eyes, and all the land that you see I'll give it unto you. Those who move on in the Spirit of God today have no desire to be separated from their fellow Christians, they have no desire to walk a different way, but they must move on in the Spirit of God. Their fellow Christians will not move on with them, they would rather cling to the world, and so they must separate themselves. They must separate themselves from their fellow Christians because they must separate themselves from the world and the drag that the world would have upon them, but after they have separated themselves unto the Spirit of God, from the world and all who would walk with it, then they too will hear the voice of God saying, "Lift up your eyes." That is the first thing we must do, lift up our eyes from this world and lift them toward Jesus; lift our minds from this world and put them on the word which Jesus had spoken; lift them from this visible world and get into the Spirit, walking in the Spirit of God and communing supernaturally with the Spirit of God through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which is the gateway to that Spiritual walk. Then God will show us all of that spiritual land He has for us. He said, "Look northward, southward, eastward and westward for all the land that thou seest is yours."

It was after I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and began to separate myself from this carnal world and this carnal Christianity, that the Spirit of God began to reveal to me from his precious word, the hidden manna, and I began to see all the land which is given to us in Christ, and God said, "Every bit of it you can see by revelation, I have given to you, arise and walk in it, and you'll come to experience every portion of it, even unto coming into perfection in Christ Jesus." One cannot see all the land, until they have separated themselves from the world and from the Lots of the church, and separated themselves unto the Spirit of God.

Then we find in our study that as the day of judgment approached Sodom and Gomorrah, God sent His angels to Abraham, and the angels of the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do, seeing that Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord." As the judgment angels were on their way to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah where Lot lived, they stopped by to reveal to Abraham what they were going to do, so Abraham could become an intercessor for his nephew Lot, who lived in Sodom, and was the only righteous man who lived in the place.

Even so, as God begins today to send forth His judgment angels to bring judgment on the Egypt and Sodom and Gomorrah of this world, His angels are stopping by in various places to reveal to Spirit filled, Spirit-walking Sons of God, what he is going to do, and that soon judgment is going to come upon this earth, so they can become intercessors to plead for their worldly brethren and to give of themselves so their worldly brethren might be snatched out of the fire of judgment which is going to come upon this earth. This is why across the earth, Sons of God and Daughters of God who are walking in the Spirit of God are receiving the revelation that judgment is soon to come. This is why the carnal, worldly branch of Christianity of the Christian Church is going on in their unconcern and in their visions of false security, thinking that the time is not near, and in their carnality, blinded, going on with their forms of religion that deny the power thereof. They are blind, and therefore the angels of the Lord are speaking to the Sons of God who are walking in the Spirit, revealing that judgment is soon to come, putting them on their knees to be intercessors for their brethren. Then as the two angels in Chapter 18 come into Sodom and Gomorrah to bring the destruction, we begin to see the cost that Lot and his family have to pay for their worldliness.

The Bible makes it very clear that Lot was a child of God. In the book of 2 Peter, the Spirit says that his righteous soul was vexed at what he saw and heard going on around him in Sodom and Gomorrah; but it wasn't vexed enough for him to give up the material gain that he could have by living with the people of the world and get out and go back over and live in Canaan land.

We see here that Lot had all the graces of Christian hospitality. He insisted on the two men coming into his home, and he made provision for them. He had the visible Christian graces that are fostered so greatly in much of the church of Jesus Christ today, but he had no faith and no anointing. He had no power when the men of the city came and demanded that the two angels come out so they might know them. Instead of standing in full faith and power against their sin, he had become so weak and so carnal in his Christian testimony that he actually offered them his two daughters in appeasement, that they might desecrate them instead of having sexual relationships with the two angels. All he did was encourage the men of that city. Instead of partaking in the grosser sin of homosexuality, he offered to them what he might have considered the lesser sin, of desecrating his two daughters.

So we can see what it had cost Lot to dwell among the people of Sodom, he had lost his spiritual strength, his faith, his power, his anointing and he had lost his leadership from God. All he had left were a few of the shallow visible graces of Christianity. This is an exact type of the people today who have denied the moving of the Spirit of God and who insist on compromising with the world and dwelling in full fellowship with the world, because of the material profit that it offers. They still have the visible Christian graces and they still bear the name. They have no faith, no power to stand against sin and to overcome sin, and they are bound by a vicious lie of the devil, that nobody can overcome their sin and nobody can be perfect. They are the Lots of our day.

Then I'm sure you understand that when the men of the city said to Lot, "Bring out the two men that we might know them", they meant that they might know them homosexually. The people of this city had become so filled with demon spirits, so possessed by demon spirits, that everybody in the whole city had become demon possessed and homosexuals.

This was why God must destroy the city and bring judgment upon it; and this is why God must bring judgment upon this Egypt, the Sodom and Gomorrah of this world today. Beloved, it is because they have come so under the power of the demoniac kingdom that their iniquity is full.

The record in the book of Romans makes it clear that the fullness of iniquity in men, the thing that proves and manifests that they have come to the fullness of iniquity, and completely under the power of the demoniac kingdom, is homosexuality. If the peoples of the world today knew just how this world had come under that power! Only the other day I was reading an article where the legislature of the state of Florida has discovered there are sixty thousand homosexuals in the state of Florida alone. We can consider what the devil is doing in the rest of the world.

When I was pastoring in the city of New Orleans, a young police sergeant was designated to head a team of men to uncover and investigate the homosexual move in that city. As this young police sergeant began to uncover what was going on there, he began to discover that it was going on in such high places that after he had written a book of his report and had it printed, he was not even allowed to publish it, and he was fired from his job because he had discovered that the very thing he was to uncover was going on in such high places that it dare not be brought into the light. This is why God's judgment is soon to come upon this earth.

Then we see, as a Christian dwelling in the midst of the world, Lot's testimony had become so weak, that the people in his world around him laughed at him. When he plead with the men of the city not to do this wicked thing, the men of the city said, "This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he

will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them." They laughed at him, his own Christian testimony had become so weak, that they said, "Who do you think you are to be a judge over us?" This is what the world is saying to the Christians today who live in the midst of the world and live the carnal worldly life, following the doctrine that nobody can be perfect and rejecting the move of the Spirit of God. They ignore them and laugh at their testimony. They say, "Who do you think you are to be a judge over us, you're not living any better life than we are. You're not demonstrating any power! What do you have that we don't have?"

When Jesus and Peter and Paul and the early Christians walked the earth, they persecuted them. They tried to throw them off cliffs; they threw them out of their synagogues; they brought them before councils and judges; they beat them half to death and threw them on garbage heaps to die; they cast them into prisons and put them in stocks; but the one thing they did not do was laugh at them and ignore them. Even so, thank God, there are Spirit-filled, tongue-speaking, prophesying, vision-seeing, Spirit-led, faith healing, assemblies across the land, in the Body of Christ today, where they persecute them; they scorn them; they ridicule them; they strive against them and they try to have them cast into prisons. (Only a short time ago I was put into jail for preaching on the streets in my own city.) But the one thing they don't do is laugh at them and ignore them, and say, "Who do you think you are? You're not manifesting anything different from what we do."

Then verse 10 says, "the men put forth their hand and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door, and they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves to find the door."

Those people of the Sodom of this world who have come under the demoniac power of Satan, are smitten with blindness. They will never be able to find the door of

deliverance from the judgment that is going to come upon this world.

We see that Lot had become so carnal that his testimony was of no value, even to the people of his own family; for the angels said to him, "If you have sons-in-law here, go to them and tell them they better get out of this place, for God is going to bring judgment upon this place." Lot went to his sons-in-law and testified to them of what he had heard from the two angels, but his testimony had become so weak in their sight that the Bible says, he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law. They laughed at him. They had seen him living in worldliness, and they had seen him living in carnality; they had seen him walking after the flesh and they knew his heart. They knew what was in him. Therefore, when he came to them and said, "I have connections with God! I have heard from God!" they laughed at him and his testimony was of no value to them. He was as one who was mocked by them.

So we have the people of the church of Jesus Christ today, who have lived such worldly, carnal lives, and whose hearts have been so hungry for the material things of this world, that even their own relatives who are of the world, can see into their hearts. They know the lives that they live and their testimony is destroyed before them, and they laugh at them. They know their hearts, and when they come to them and say, "I have connections with God; I have heard from God; this is the truth of God;" they only turned their face away. They are as one who mocked unto them, because they have not separated themselves from this world; because they have not stood against the world; because they have not rebuked the sin of this world by the lives that they live, because they have not walked in the Spirit of God and demonstrated that they have connections with God. Even with their own loved ones, their own families, they are as one who mocks unto them.

Now verses 15 and 16 say: And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife,

and thy two daughters which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth and set him without the city.

Lot had become so bound by the world around him, so weak in faith, that even when God was speaking directly to him through His angels, still he lingered, and the angels had to literally take him and his family by the hand and drag them out of the fire that was to come upon the city. Here you have a perfect type of the Christians, that the Spirit speaks of through Paul, in 1 Corinthians 3, who are going to be saved, yet so as by fire. 1 Corinthians 3:11: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. This is our conversions, our profession of faith in Jesus Christ. That's our foundation. Then in verse 12: Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble: And here, he is talking about our works as Christians, that we build upon this foundation. Then, he says in verse 13: Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. Verse 14 reads: If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. Verse 15: If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved: yet so as by fire. Paul says there is going to come a day which is going to reveal every Christian's works; of what sort they are, whether they are of the Spirit of God or whether they are worked in the energy of the flesh; carnal, promotional, organizational, use of earthly talents, to build our own place of recognition here in the earth. Every man's works shall be revealed, he says, for the day, the day of fire, shall declare them.

There is going to come a day of fire upon the earth, prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Fire, being the symbol of the judgment of God, is going to reveal every man's

works, of what sort they are. Paul says, some will have their works revealed as gold and silver and precious stones. In the symbolism of scripture, gold is the symbol of the nature of God. In as much as gold is the perfect metal which cannot be tarnished, so is God's nature perfection and cannot be tarnished. Silver is the symbol of the redemptive works of Christ. In as much as silver is the metal second only to gold, Christ is the second person in the Trinity. Precious stones are symbols of the gifts and operations of the Spirit of God. Paul says, when that day of fire comes, some will have their works revealed, by the fire itself, as gold and silver and precious stones. That is, they will have come to the nature of God, through the redemptive works of Christ. They'll have all the supernatural gifts and operations of the Spirit of God, working in them. Therefore, this fire will mean nothing to them, it will flow over their backs, like water off a duck's back. But he says, there is another group whose works as Christians, shall be revealed as wood, and hay and stubble. They will not have yielded themselves to the Spirit of God. They will not have moved on, in the moving of the Spirit of God. Like Lot, they will have dwelt in the world, and tried to hang on to the material and the positions in this world, and in worldly, formalistic, carnal Christianity; and their works will be revealed as wood, hay and stubble, which burns up quickly and disappears. It will be revealed that they have no faith, no anointing, no supernatural power, no gifts and operations of the Spirit of God.

Like Lot, they will have nothing on which to stand, and it will be horrible for them. But it will, at last, break them. They shall, at last, surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. With the help of the Holy Angels, and the intercession of the Abrahams of this world, and the other Sons of God who love them, they will be saved, yet so as by fire. They will, at last, break and they will surrender to the Spirit of God, and be taken on to their perfection; but, so as by fire. Like Lot and his family, they will linger, and they will linger, even when the sons of God and the angels of God keep telling them that

judgment is coming upon the earth. As God is sending forth His sons to preach today, like Lot, they will linger, and they will linger, and linger; and only God in His graciousness can save them, as His angels and the sons of God will drag them out of the fire, even as the angels stretched forth their hand and dragged Lot and his family out of the fire.

Then verses 19 and 20 show us just how far this man Lot had sunk, since he had separated himself from Abraham. God spoke to him through His angels and said, "Lot, go up into the mountain, there you will be safe," but Lot answered God back and said, "No, I don't want to go into the mountain. There is a little city over here close, named Zoar, let me go there." Instead of moving up into the mountain, where God told him to go, he still didn't want to let go of that place where he was. He still wanted to hang on to a little bit of that world in which he had been living.

Even so, to the people of God today, God is sending forth His voice, by His Spirit through His servants, telling the people to flee unto the high places; to flee unto the mountains in God; to climb up high in God; to move into the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, that God is pouring out His Spirit on every denomination and bring forth ministers and laymen-Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopalian. God is saying, let me take you high into the Spirit; let me take you into the high places in faith, in revelation, in anointing, in power, so that you can be prepared for the judgment that comes upon the world. Let me take you into the secret place. Let me take you into the mountain of God. Yet they are so bound by their carnality and their worldly Christianity, that they want to hang on to just a little bit more of this old world. It shall not be, beloved. They shall not escape that way. We must let this world go completely, that God may take us into the high places, if we are going to escape the judgment that is coming upon the earth.

God said to him, "Alright, I've heard you in this matter." But if you follow the record on through, you'll see Lot did not like it over in that little city. He got frightened there and

he finally had to go to the mountain after all. So it will be with the Christians today. God will let them hang on to a little bit of this world, until the fire gets so hot as the judgment of God is poured out upon the earth, and they at last see that they better go up into the mountain that God has prepared for them if they're going to escape the judgment at all.

Then we come to the tragedy of the whole story. As they moved out of the city, Lot's wife so hated to leave her material possessions behind, that she looked back, and when she did, she became a pillar of salt. When I read this, I hear the words of Jesus saying, as he prophesied of the last judgment that is coming upon the world. He said, "Let him that is on the house top not try to take his stuff." He said, "Remember Lot's wife." There are those who will so hate to leave their possessions behind, they so want to hang on to the things of this old world, like Lot's wife who became a dead thing with no life in her, so they become spiritually dead with no life in them. God help them to turn from that kind of thing, in these last days.

So the record ends in verse 29, which tells us that because God remembered Abraham, because of Abraham's intercession, Lot and his family were snatched out of the fire. This is why the angels of the Lord are speaking to sons and daughters of God today, and revealing to them that the judgment of God is soon to come upon the Sodom and Gomorrah of this world. The angels of the Lord, on their way to bring judgment to Sodom, are stopping by and revealing to the Sons of God, who are walking in the Spirit of God and in union with the Spirit of God, that judgment is coming, so they can become intercessors for their spiritual relatives, for the Lots of this world, who are blind; who are powerless; who are weak; who are so overcome by the desire for the material things of this world, that they have not within them, that which is necessary to enable them to turn from it, to get out of it. Through the intercession of those sons of God who move, are yet members of their body, they

will be snatched out of the fire. Therefore, beloved, take it not lightly when the Spirit of God puts the burden on your heart for those who are still of the Body of Christ, who are walking in darkness; who are rejecting the move of the Spirit of God today; who are saying we are fanatics and of the devil, and deceived, and all those things. God is burdening our hearts for them, that we might be intercessors to snatch them out of the fire. We have no time to condemn them, we have no time to be aggravated with them. God reveals to us what He is doing, even as He said, "Shall the Lord do anything that he shall not reveal it unto his Prophets;" that we might take the burden, and through intercession, the rest of the members of our body who are blinded by the god of this world, may be snatched out of the fire. Let us never forget that they are members of our body. Lot was Abraham's blood relative and they are our spiritual brothers and sisters, members of our very body. They are a part of us and we are a part of them. Therefore, we must accept the burden and labor in intercession before God, for their deliverance when the Day of Judgment comes.

For this cause, the burden is upon our hearts, and it will get heavier and heavier, until as one of the young women of my church saw in a vision, we will find ourselves having prayed ourselves out. In doing so, we will be used by God, as intercessors to drag our brethren and our sisters, who are blinded by the materialism and the god of this world, out of the fire. Through it all, God will redeem His elect, The Body of Christ. May God make it real to our hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE LITTLE SNAKE BITES

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made.

Our hearts would greatly rejoice if every Christian in the world understood the great truth contained in this verse of scripture. In simple paraphrase it says that the invisible things of God have always been visible before us since the foundation of the world, being seen in the things that are made. This simply means that God in the beginning, foreknowing His whole plan, made visible things or the things we see around us in what is called nature or natural law, symbols of invisible spiritual truths and realities. That is why the Bible uses water as a symbol for the Holy Spirit, seed as a symbol for the Word of God and serpent as a symbol for the devil. Not because the Holy Spirit who authored the Bible just arbitrarily decided to use these as symbols, but because the Holy Spirit whom the Bible says knoweth the deep things of God knew that in the beginning God made these visible things symbols of the spiritual realities they represent. Therefore, he simply used the symbols God had made. God always does things perfectly, these symbols are perfect in their every aspect. Therefore, if we study in the Spirit the nature of water, we can learn much about the Holy Spirit. If we study the nature of seed, we can learn much about the Word of God. If we study the nature of the serpent or snake family we can learn much about the nature of Lucifer and his demons.

There are many aspects of the snake's nature that we could study and learn much about demons, but for the purpose of this article we shall take just one. The serpent is always hiding in the grass beside the trail. When the unwary pass by, he strikes, sinking his fangs into their leg. The wound is so very small it would seem to be insignificant, just two tiny pin holes. But he injects a poison into your blood stream that begins to permeate every portion of your being and you begin to die.

Even so, Lucifer's fiery serpent demon spirits are always hiding beside the highways and byways of life. When the unwary pass by, they strike. Most often, the actual strike is never felt by the individual and they do not know when the enemy has hit them but they inject a poison called sin into your being which begins to permeate every portion of your being and you begin to die. It is the little snake bites that are killing Christians today and making the whole Church so sick that they are so spiritually weak they are not only unable to manifest the supernatural life of Christ or walk as Christians, they cannot even stand as Christians.

The little snake bites, the apparently harmless things we allow in our lives keep us sick and powerless. Many a mother and father today are seeing their teenage boy or girl that was brought up in the Church slowly having the life of Christ drained out of them by Satan's serpents because they thought it was perfectly harmless to let them attend the so-called high school hops, listen to the rock and roll garbage that is called music today over their transistor radios, read the trashy Bobby Soxer and Beatle magazines and comic books with half naked women on each page, sit before the television hour after hour as the half-naked women and men with sensual dances suck them into the vortex of sensuality. Christian parents have no awareness that Lucifer is the greatest psychologist in the world. In Mark 5, the scriptures say that when Jesus cast the demons out of the man Legion, the villagers came out and found him clothed and in his right mind. Before Jesus cast the demons out, he was not in his right mind. Here is indisputable evidence that demon work is mind work. Any dictionary will tell you that psychology deals with the mind. Lucifer well knows that if he can keep the minds of young people filled with frivolous garbage, there will be no room for the Holy Spirit to minister good edifying truth that can keep him from drawing them down into a vortex of sensuality by which they can take possession of them.

Not to long ago in a certain city, a mother in tears brought her teenage daughter to me asking me to pray for her. When I asked the problem, the mother said she stayed out every night with boys till wee hours of the morning. She wound up staying out all night with some and was arrested, and the mother had to beg the judge not to send her away. As I looked at the girl, I realized she was filled with demon spirits of lust. I told the mother, when the Lord spoke to me, I would deal with them.

Three nights later, the Lord spoke and I called the girl into the pastor's study after the service. Hoping to shock her into seeking her own deliverance, I said to her, "If you do not come to the altar and pray through and get deliverance from these demons, they are going to possess your soul and drag you down to hell." Her eyes suddenly sunk back in her head and she sneered at me, "I don't care if I go to hell." I realized this child was so bound by demons that she could not help herself. I called in some of the saints that were with me and we laid hands on her and commanded the demons to come out in Jesus' name. The demons made her begin to fight and kick and stick out her tongue at us. It was no use to tell her to pray, she couldn't pray. The demons wouldn't let her lift up her hands. But after 45 minutes, when the last demon came out, her hands shot into the air and she began to cry, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus." A few nights later she received the Baptism of the Spirit.

Now I have a letter she sent me months later, declaring she could not understand how she had ever cursed her mother, for she loved her dearly now. When the deliverance was finished, I told the mother, if you let her keep sitting before the television, reading Beatle magazines and listening to trashy rock and roll music, she will get back in the same condition and it will be your fault. We solemnly proclaim to mothers across the land, if you allow your daughters and sons to be bitten by these fiery serpents you are selling their souls out to the devils and God will hold you responsible.

We are well aware that most parents are too weak to fight a consistent battle against their children's willfulness in these things, and therefore many will not heed our warning. A consistent battle will be what is necessary to get the victory.

About three years ago my wife and I had to fight a battle with the spirits of hell for our own teenage daughter. When she was ten years old there came a great outpouring of the Spirit upon the Church I pastored and she received one of the most powerful Baptisms in the Spirit I have ever seen. From then until she was sixteen she had a sweet Christian testimony. When she was sixteen the Lord had led her mother and I to begin a work in Miami. She began high school there and soon the spirits that are taking over the young people in the high schools there began to get to her. She came home one day with a transistor radio stuck to her ear listening to the rock and roll trash. I sat down and carefully explained to her that a very important part of Lucifer and his demon's program to rule the minds of men is to keep the minds of young people so filled with frivolous trash that there is no room for the Holy Spirit to minister edifying truth to them, and thereby keep them powerless and under his power. Also that every positive truth she opened her mind to would build faith and power with God in her heart and everything negative that entered her heart through her conscious mind would destroy faith.

However, she had reached the point where she did not receive the word and answered, "Daddy, I can't agree with you." Then I told her, "Honey, I'm sorry that you cannot see clearly and turn from this of your own will, but since you cannot, I'm going to tell you, you are not going to listen to that trash just because I'm your father and I say so." Then I took the transistor radio and threw it away.

At this she rebelled and for the next three months became more and more rebellious toward me, toward her mother and the Lord. It became so bad I had to force her to go to my own Church services, and you can be sure I did force her. Parents who do not use their authority to force their children

to stay under the Word are foolish parents. You can be sure that Lucifer's army is going to do all they can to force them the other way. You cannot make them receive it but you can keep them under its power till God breaks through to them.

I knew I could not cast out the demons that had entered my daughter as long as she was accepting them, so her mother and I daily claimed her deliverance in the Spirit for three months.

Then one night a group of the saints were standing in a praise circle in my home praising God. My daughter came in from an afternoon outing with some of the Church young people. There was a young boy she was fond of at the time, who had accepted Christ shortly before. As he stood in the circle the Lord told me to lay hands on him. As I did, he immediately received the Baptism of the Spirit. This so moved my daughter that tears rolled down her cheeks and she said, "Daddy, lay hands on me, I want deliverance." I laid my hands on her head and the people all released their faith and the two spirits that had her bound began to speak through her crying, "No, no," they did not want to come out. But in a few minutes they came out and she was set free and began speaking in tongues for the first time in months.

Since then her mother and I have been proud of her Christian testimony and today she is traveling with us in the ministry. Young people and adults learn this. All the devil wants from you is your time. If he can just get your time that you could use praying and studying God's Word, and building yourself up in the most Holy faith, and get you to use it in frivolous things, watching television, listening to trashy music, reading frivolous literature or just in conversation with friends that does not edify, he will keep you powerless and under his bondage forever, and the little snake bites that you consider such harmless things will keep you spiritually sick forever if they do not kill you.

The following is a plea written by a teenage girl from a state mental hospital. If someone had taught her this truth in time, she would not now be crying out from the bottom of

the pit. We ask that all who read her plea will bind together in the Spirit to claim her deliverance. Bro. Sam Fife

Written in March, 1966 by a 16 year-old girl in State Hospital.

Dear People of the Outside World:

I'm writing this to you from a state mental institution, or as some would call it, "an insane asylum." At the present time and for the last five weeks I have been in seclusion. Seclusion is a place where they keep the patients that are too far gone to be helped, or in some cases, dangerous; or as in my case, for punishment. I tried to run away from this forsaken place. Seclusion is a nightmare.

This is a very small room (if you can call it a room). Most of them have no windows. Your clothes are all taken from you and the "food" they give you (if it could be called food) is eaten with your fingers only. There is no heat in the winter and in the summer it gets very hot. You have to keep warm by cuddling in the comer with only your one blanket (no bed here). But the worst of it is the terrible evil feeling that is constantly near you. I can't explain this feeling. It is like an evil force trying to get hold of your body, mind, spirit. I'm constantly on the alert, you have to be here, or this thing will take control of you.

Many of the patients here seem to be controlled by this evil force. You can see it in their eyes. Their eyes are wild and a chill runs down my back just thinking of it. Their yells and screams sound not even human. It makes your heart beat fast and your blood almost curdle.

I've found out that many of these people here were once very ordinary people just like you may be. Sane and normal people. Some of them had been very rich and others were poor. Even a couple here had been in Hollywood and on television programs, while others were just very old and relatives no longer wanted to care for them. Then there are the many teenagers and young people, like myself, who were in trouble with the law, or who had been sent here for

prostitution or drug addiction. People are sent here from every field and walk of life.

You may be asking yourself these questions, "What changed these people from ordinary sane persons to raving maniacs?" or "What caused these teenagers to change from good, decent, law-abiding, respectable kids to hoodlums?" or "What changed me-a sweet Christian girl to this-a common, ordinary, cheap tramp?"

I've been thinking about these questions for these past weeks, and I can only come up with this one answer. In every single patient that I've talked to or listened to, there has always come up the mention of God-oblivious rejection of Him. Right now I'm not talking just of teenagers. If you listen to these people a little while (whether you are here in seclusion where you can see no one but hear much, or down in the ward), you will find that they are always cursing God and His Son and just blaspheming His Spirit. Then the next minute they will cry out for God, in desperation. Then they sometimes start singing, "Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow" or "Oh, the blood of Jesus, it washes white as snow," then the next minute, back to cursing God again.

When I talk to them it is very hard to make sense of what they say, but I have put some of it together and come up with these statements. Almost every one of them had been running from God and has refused to give God his all. This must have been the starting of their horrible fate. Then refusing God as they (we) did, left open opportunity for the evil forces to take hold of their minds. Being around here, I would say that these evil forces are demons out of hell itself. It may be hard to believe, but there is no other possible explanation. I have tried to talk and listen and understand these people and I'm fully convinced this is the only thing wrong with them in most cases.

Now, I'm going to talk as a 16 year-old teenager, about teenagers. The last two years of my life have been very mixed up. I've been in and out of jails and psycho wards of hospitals and in trouble with the cops. I've done every

shameful thing I could, just for "kicks." So I think I understand why kids do the things they do. Speaking from my experience I was driven by some force I could not control. Many many times I did not want to do these things; I hated them and would rather have died, but something was forcing me to it. The truth is teenagers today are being driven by evil demon spirits (and not kids only-much of humanity in general, it seems.) When questioned by the cops about, "Why did you do it?", I have heard and said many times, "I don't know why, something just got hold of me and made me do it", and I have heard other kids say the same, many times.

I can remember one incident (of many too horrible to recall) not long ago when I was in a teenage nightclub (which is illegal in this state but the authorities were covering for it) with these two cats (guys). The lights were so low you could hardly see a step in front of you. The band was really swinging and the music loud. We had just finished our third drink, spiked with whiskey and were really high by that time. It was about midnight and everyone was out on the floor dancing. The music got louder and louder. We like loud music. When it is that loud you can't think, nor hear your conscience speaking, you think only of that "music" the "beat" was wild. All of a sudden everyone went crazy, including myself. It seemed to spread like some horrible contagious thing, strong and powerful. Some had passed out on the floor by this time but no one paid any attention to them; the rest of us started screaming and yelling and fell to the floor rolling wildly. It was like we were fighting some horrible something that was wanting to possess us, we were losing the battle. The music was "the most"; the beat was driving us wild. It made you feel like, well, I just don't know how to explain it. But now, as I lay here in this horrible institution, the same, the exact feeling and force is here that was driving us on the dance floor, it is here now wanting to possess me.

The psychiatrists keep asking me why I keep getting into trouble. But I have no answer. I have no reason. I only know I am being forced into it.

We kids today don't know why we do these things we do; we don't understand ourselves and we don't even want to be understood. This generation is a rebellious and hateful generation of kids toward all authority (and not kids only, either). The crime rate has never been so high before. Narcotics addiction is zooming-up, up, up! There are more teenage alcoholics than ever before, sex parties are "the thing" now. Prostitution is "Easy money" they say. Where will this force drive us in ten years from now?! Where? To hell! That is the answer. Or perhaps through a detour to a place like this (a small sample of hell) a mental institution where one can knock his brains out against a wall in desperation and who cares?

The psychiatrists give up on us as hopeless and society wants no part of us. What then can stop this force from driving us on?

There is only one answer. It is God. He only can drive back this force to where it came from. That sounds weird coming from me: but now I know. So many times I have tried to make myself believe there was no God. I tried to believe the theory of evolution, denying God's creation of humanity but down inside me I knew. There is a God. He is alive and not dead.

Our teachers told us the Bible was a fable and that evolution was a fact. God and the Bible are not welcome in schools any more and every effort is made to tear down the faith of Christians and to humiliate them to the point of "surrender" this I did.

Now, I can't pray. I can't feel God nor get a prayer through to Him. I know He is my only hope, but I can't reach him. Won't you who know Him take compassion, there are things going on in this place you would not believe nor could you sleep if you knew. We the captive souls need your help. Help.