

## Faith and Deeds Part 3

***“20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (James 2:20-24 KJV)***

Let us continue in this message speaking about the works of Abraham that accompanied his faith in God. Our faith should be accompanied by actions that show we are linked in faith with Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us read ***Genesis 14*** and let us come out with lessons from the life of Abraham that showed His faith in Christ and in God.

Abram showed compassion and mercy and translated that into action when he heard his nephew Lot was taken captive by the enemy. Let us read ***Genesis 14***. ***“1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; 2 That these 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, which is Zoar. 3 All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea. 4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. 5 And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim, 6 And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elparan, which is by the wilderness. 7 And they returned, and came to Enmishpat, which is Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezontamar. 8 And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim; 9 With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five. 10 And the vale of Siddim was full of slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. 11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. 12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. 13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram. 14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. 15 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. 16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.” (Genesis 14:1-16 KJV)***

From this passage we can see clearly in verses 1-10 how the war started between the four kings against the five kings. The outcome of the war as we read was the following: ***“... and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. 11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. 12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and***

***his goods, and departed.” (Genesis 14:10-12 KJV)*** Now here we can see clearly that Lot had no plan to get involved in a war and he did not plan to do such. But what was his fault in all of that, which caused his goods to be taken and he and his family got captives, is that his decision and movement away from Abram when the strife started between his herdsmen and the herdsmen of Abram. For we know that Abram to end up the strife, offered Lot to choose the place in the land that he liked. Lot did not return the invitation back to Abram and ask him to choose first, and he did not ask him his opinion and what the best place that he needed to take. But Lot went ahead, and was enticed with the beauty of the place of Sodom as we read here, ***“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.” (Genesis 13:10 KJV)*** He was so eager to choose the best place, but his choice was wrong; inspite it was known that the men of Sodom were as evil as we read here, ***“13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.” (Genesis 13:13 KJV)*** That what Lot did in taking wrong decision to move away from Abram and to live in Sodom was a wrong decision, and it came from his pride, selfishness, ungratefulness and unfaithfulness. Such step was because of what was inside him that made him liable to destruction. ***So here you can learn that your action that comes from desires and inclinations that contradicts to the faith that we learn from the Bible, will make you liable to troubles and destruction because what you sow is what you reap. “7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (Galatians 6:7-8 KJV)*** So let us take heed of this story and what had happened to Lot how he lost his goods and was put into troubles when deviated his course from what God had ordained for him to go through.

Why such destruction had happened unto Lot? Because as it is written and promised to Abram by the Lord, and Lot knew it before hand, ***“3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3 KJV)*** So here Lot when he departed from Abram as if he was cursing Abram, and his departure was part of that curse that finally ended Lot to be attacked by the invaders and was looted and got captive he and his family. His departure from the right way made him out of the protection and made troubles come on him. ***So those who oppose us, and quarrel with us and leave the church as if they are cursing us; though we love them and we wish them good; we grieve for them leaving us and the right way of life, but finally inspite of all that they will be receiving the curse and the Lord will allow it if they will not repent.***

You may ask this question: Why Abram did not stop Lot and explained to him the dangers of choosing the plain of Sodom and warned him about the evil men of Sodom? The answer: Do you think Lot will listen? Also we don't know if Abram warned him about that or not. It might be also that Lot was so eager to hear from Abram to choose what he liked, so he can depart where he wished. ***When a person got rich and has good material possessions, his pride had developed, it will be so difficult to be advised, convinced and directed away from what he decided. \* But God has his own way to teach the people the lesson that they need in their lives.***

From this story we can learn other important things. We learn about the right faith of Abram and how his actions confirmed that faith in what he did. Abram was full of compassion when he heard the story of what had happened to Lot his nephew. ***“13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite,***

**brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.” (Genesis 14:13 KJV)** Finally the news reached to Abram who was staying in Mamrei in Hebron, in the new place that he chose after Lot had departed from him as we read here, **“18 Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.” (Genesis 13:18 KJV)**

Abram’s place although was not externally beautiful as the place of Sodom that Lot chose, but was a safe place. As well as, Abram in the place that God put him he was in good relationship and in confederate with people who were prepared by God to be of help and blessing to him. **So here we need to be very careful and attentive to the Holy Spirit to move by Him and dwell in the place that He wants us to stay so that we will be always at safety, under God’s direction and well provided and we will be protected by the set up that God had placed us in.**

The meaning of the Word **“Hebrew”** in verse 13, is **‘one from beyond’**, or **‘sojourner’**, and that is true for Abram; he was a sojourner on earth and moving in the direction that God was guiding him through. He was born on earth but his destiny was in Heaven, so he was a one from beyond. **In the same way, we need to live and behave on earth as Hebrews to sojourn and move in the direction that God is needing us to move and settle and live in the places that He wants us to settle while we are waiting for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to come and take us with Him to Heaven, “20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21 KJV)**

**“14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.” (Genesis 14:14 KJV)** You see here the faith and the actions of Abram, when he heard about Lot, he had compassion about him, and indeed Abram considered Lot as a brother equal to him, and not as nephew whom he raised and cared for over the years. **This attitude of Abram is a great challenge for us today to behave in like manner to those who oppose us, trouble us and those who left the church and the right way of life and went away doing their own will.** Abram when he heard of what had happened to Lot he moved with compassion to go forward in order to rescue and save Lot and his family. **These now the actions that God would expect from us, to go on and move in order to go and rescue those whom the curse had fall on them and are bitten by the devil; that we need to go and move forward with all what the Lord had provided for us to go on and rescue them who are in trouble.** We do that in following the example of Abram who moved **“his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them”**, in order to rescue Lot. We are called to do the same as we are admonished with God’s Word in Jude, **“21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.” (Jude 1:21-23 KJV)** and also in the book of James, **“19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20 KJV)**

**“15 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.” (Genesis 14:15 KJV)**

God gave Abram strategy how to go and fight to deliver his brother Lot from the hand of the enemy and save his life and his family and the people with him who were taken captives. **“16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.” (Genesis 14:16 KJV)** God gave Abram victory as his heart knitted and joined with the heart and the compassion of God. **In the same way God shall give us the right step and the right strategy of how to go to rescue our brethren from the hand of the devil and from the hand of the wicked people, and sure He will give to us the victory.**

**My dear and beloved:** Let us now come to the Lord and let us allow the Holy Spirit to examine us and to show us the wrong attitude and the wrong behavior that God wants us to repent from. Let us renounce hatred, anger, grudges, revenge, vengeance, and unforgiveness toward those who oppose us, trouble us and left us. Let us come to God with a pure and loving heart and good feeling toward sinners who are lost with their sins and their wrong doings. Let us have compassion on them as we saw in the example of Abram and in the example of Jesus of how He responded when He saw the crowds **“36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:36-38 KJV)**

Let us pray . . . .

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me new things in my life and challenge me to be changed and amend my attitudes toward those who left the ways and now in troubles.

Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your wrong decision and your worldliness that took you away from the truth and the right path of life. Confess and renounce your pride, selfishness, your unfaithfulness and ungratefulness. Renounce your non forgiveness, and non willingness to help those who oppose you as they are in trouble. Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned in this message. Lord I commit myself to go and help the following people who are in trouble because they had left the right way \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented and had committed their lives to apply your Word and the instructions that we receive in this message. Lord give them wisdom and strength and a clear plan and strategy of how to apply such in their lives. Lord bless them, protect them, provide their needs and reward them for all their service and ministry unto you.

Lord help us as a church and guide us to apply the teaching that we had learned from you in this message. Lord we are willing to go forward with compassion and mercy to rescue the following people who caused strife with us and now they are in trouble. \_\_\_\_\_. Lord protect us as we go forward, provide for us and give us the strategy of how to help them. Lord lead us to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train workers to go and

*plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

Faith and Deeds Part 3. Genesis 14:1-16. James 2:20-24. Galatians 6:7-8. Genesis 12:3. Philippians 3:20-21. Jude 1:21-23. James 5:19-20. Matthew 9:36-38. Matthew 28:19-20.

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