

FAITH JOURNEY





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Faith in God's Provision

'So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.'
Genesis 13:1-4

1. Abraham's Way

- Faith that can handle Setbacks

'Now there was a famine in the land and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.'

Genesis 12:10

**Abraham's faith is displayed by how
he handled his setbacks and his failures**

***The first step back from failure is to
restore our relationship with God***

‘and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.’

Genesis 13:4

1. Abraham's Way

- Faith that can handle Setbacks
- Faith that can handle Success

'Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold... Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.'

Genesis 13:2, 5-6

‘Money is like fire. It will warm your feet or it will burn your socks off.’

Paul Shervish

‘Adversity is sometimes hard upon a man; but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity.’

Thomas Carlyle

The true test of faith is not just how we handle failure, but how we handle fame; not just how we handle problems, but how we handle prosperity.

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- **What about our children? How do we enjoy our lifestyle without ruining our children?**
- **What are we losing in all this gaining?**
- **I know money doesn't equal happiness, but I thought I'd be a lot happier once I reached a certain level; and I'm really not.**

- **Every time someone preaches on stewardship, I feel like they've got me in their sights. Am I just being paranoid?**
- **I am actually worried about losing it all one day.**
- **Is it possible to reclaim that innocence and freedom we experienced when we were starting out and still have what we have?**

'Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarrelling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time....

‘..So Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not have any quarrelling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.”

Genesis 13:5-9

1. Abraham's Way

- Faith that can handle Setbacks
- Faith that can handle Success
- Faith that can handle Strife

2. Lot's Way

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'Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.' Genesis 13:10 - 13

2. Lot's Way

- A failure to Internalise Faith

'Lot was one of those men who take the right steps, not because they are prompted by obedience to God, but because their friends are taking them.' F.B. Meyer

- **Frequent personal prayer**
 - **Strong parental religion**
 - **Importance of faith in everyday decisions**
 - **Spiritual experience**
 - **Having questions answered**
 - **Frequent scripture reading**
 - **Supportive religious adults**
 - **Being made fun of for religious faith**
- (C. Smith 'Souls in Transition')*

2. Lot's Way

- A failure to Internalise Faith
- A failure to Recognise the power of Environment

'Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.'

Genesis 13:13

‘Those who think they stand, take heed in case they fall.’

1 Corinthians 10:12

2. Lot's Way

- A failure to Internalise Faith
- A failure to Recognise the power of Environment
- A failure to Prioritise God

'Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah). So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:' Genesis 13:10 - 11

Don't prioritise:

Your salary over your soul

Your finances over your family

Your money over your marriage

'The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.'" Genesis 13: 14-17

‘Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)’ v 10

‘The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had parted from him, “Lift up your eyes from where you are, and look north and south and east and west.’ v 14

Faith is believing that God could do better for us than we could do for ourselves

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