

# CONSECRATION

Week 4 | January 22nd - January 28th

## Choices and Consequences

I am drawing this lesson from Genesis 13:5-18. I remember some time ago reading about a point along the Continental Divide high in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado where the waters of a small stream separated. It would not seem to matter much whether a drop of water goes to the left or the right, but the outcome of these drops of water is totally different. One drop goes to the west and eventually flows into the Colorado River and empties into the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean. Another drop goes east until it flows into the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, and then the Atlantic Ocean.



Two drops of water and two entirely different destinations, but one small turning point that determines the outcome. I have found that many of life's choices are like this. At the time, they do not seem significant, but those choices are a series of events that shape the lives of your children and your children's children after you.

If we should share how we came to know Christ, I would guess that many of you chose to go somewhere where you met someone who started talking to you which led to a chain of events which led to your salvation. The original choice was not a big deal, but the outcome was life-changing. Sometimes people make unwise choices which are not monumental in and of themselves, but they lead to tragedies. **Since seemingly small choices can have such major consequences, how can we protect ourselves from making wrong choices?**

The story of Lot's choice in Genesis 13:15-18 teaches a critical lesson about life choices. The Bible says that the herdsman of Lot and Abram were quarreling because there was not adequate land to support all of their livestock. So Abram gave Lot the choice and Lot surveyed the land and decided to move down into the lush Jordan valley. That choice was the beginning of Lot's gradual, but steady spiritual decline. First, he looked toward Sodom. Then he moved his tent near Sodom. Next, we find him living in Sodom. Finally, he is sitting in the gate of Sodom which meant he was some type of city official.

He eventually lost his wife. He barely escaped with his own life and his two daughters and he is last seen in the Old Testament in a cave where his daughters make him drunk and commit incest with him. The offspring of these disgraceful nights were the Moabites and the Ammonites who became two of Israel's bitter enemies. It all began with Lot's choice to live near Sodom.

## Prayer Objectives

- Pray for church growth.
- Pray for honor and respect for God regarding the tithe and offerings to the local church.
- Pray for submission to spiritual leaders.
- Pray for believers expression of love towards each other.
- Always pray for the souls of the lost. We believe that the Lord wants to save them.
- Petition God for our church's breakthrough into the future.
- Pray for sensitivity to God's Word and His movement.
- Ask God to give us a burden to see our area reached for Jesus and for God's people to experience a mighty spiritual revival.
- Pray for excitement about Jesus Christ, what He is doing in our lives and in the life of the church.
- Pray for the restoration of broken relationships that need to be restored.
- Pray for the reaching of lives and strengthening of families through the Husband and Wife Retreat and Singles' Summit.
- Pray for the success of the FTCC Mass Choir's Created for Worship CD. I believe it is an avenue for evangelism. It can reach people that we cannot reach in the pulpit or the pew.

There is a clear progression in this story. First, both Lot and Abram have increased wealth. Their increased wealth leads to increased strife. They did not have that problem before. Most of us feel that wealth will solve our problems, but some of the most unhappy people in the world are those with money. Sometimes, one member of the family is set against the other trying to make sure that he gets his portion of inheritance. Increased wealth leads to increased responsibility for your choices. Lot was not just deciding for himself. His family and many servants, and their families, would be affected by his choice. So, Lot's increased wealth led to strife which also led him to make the worst decision of his life.

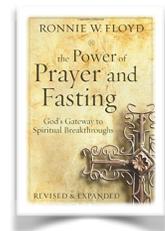
Lot did something that many American Christians do usually without much thought. **He made a major life decision based on the unchallenged assumption that pursuing prosperity should be the main goal in life.**

It is possible to gain the whole world and lose your soul. There is much more in life than the outward and material. We must base our choices on God's Word; not on the assumption of our culture. These principles compass the whole Bible and take a lifetime to learn thoroughly.

There are 4 principles I want you to explore.

1. Make choices which value relationships over rights.
2. Make choices which value godliness over greed.
3. Make choices which value fellowship with God over the approval of the world.
4. Make choices which value God's eternal promises over immediate pleasure.

As we enter into week four of our time of consecration, by now your bodies should be fully adjusted. We should be ready for the press. We have come too far to compromise now. Let's stick with it together, having started it together. Please remove all fried foods from your diet this week. Please also pick up your copy of the "The Power of Prayer and Fasting" by Ronnie Floyd and continue reading our prayer resource for the month.



We've seen the Lord move in prayer. Meet us on Mondays (at 7 PM) and Fridays (at 7:30 PM) for our corporate prayer/problem solving gatherings. Don't just miss meals: Pray, Pray, Pray.

**Pastor Earl & Denise Goings**