

HE LOT TEST

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> The purpose of THE LOT TEST is to reveal whether you are willing to completely remove yourself from the sins of your past and never return to that life, or if you've simply taken a temporary time-out since you accepted Christ. THE LOT TEST will exposed whether you have left enough doors open in your life to get back to Egypt when the excitement of being a new Christian wears off.

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- In college I was the president of my fraternity at Michigan State University. I was the one hosting all the parties on campus. During football and basketball season my dorm room was the one everybody hung out in to watch the games.

Occasionally, when there was a big boxing match on pay-preview, I'd rent a room so we could all watch the fight together. Then came the day when I decided to wholeheartedly give my life to God. My friends were OK with my newfound faith as long I was still doing all the stuff I used to do. But when I decided I was going to give my life completely to God, they didn't understand that. All of a sudden I'm no longer the life of the party. I'm not drinking anymore. I'm not going the same places and doing all the other things I used to do anymore. And just like that, the phone stopped ringing.

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> God created us human beings to be in fellowship and have companionship, so I enjoyed being with my college friends. But as much as I like being a part of the action. I had to tell all of them I was never going to another party again-that I didn't even want to be invited. I knew I had to position myself so that I couldn't go to the next party even if I wanted to. I had to make an irrevocable decision of quality to go all the way with God. This is something all believers need to learn how to do. From the day you get saved and start trying to walk up rightly before God, there is a constant tug that's trying to drag you back into the life of sin you came out of. This is the enemy trying to see if he can get you back into the lifestyle you left behind.

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> If you are not constantly on alert and keeping your defenses up, and you may find yourself drifting back to the place of wickedness and sin. This is what happened to Abraham's nephew, Lot-which is why I call this THE LOT TEST. The purpose of THE LOT TEST IS TO REVEAL whether you are willing to completely remove yourself from the sins of your pass and never return to that life,

or if you've simply take a temporary time-out since you accepted Christ. THE LOT TEST will expose whether you have left enough doors open in your life to get back to Egypt when the excitement of being a new Christian wears off.

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> When Abraham took his nephew, Lot, with him when he left Ur of the Chaldees, a lot of problems arose. One problem was that the servants Lot brought with him were quarreling and fighting with Abraham's servants. The two men sat down to talk it over. We do not want there to be any strife between us, Abraham said. We're family. So you may choose any section of land you want, Lot, and whatever land you do not take, I'll take. So that's what they did. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly. (*Genesis 13:12-13*)

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> This is how Lot ended up living in Sodom and Gomorrah. When Abraham, who was called Abram at the time, gave Lot the opportunity to choose which section of land he was going to take, not only did he choose the best land, but he also pitched his tent toward Sodom. Lot could see what was going on in Sodom from his home. He wasn't living there yet, but he was at least looking in that direction. He could hear what was going on. I'm sure passersby were telling him some of the good things about Sodom and Gomorrah. The location was also great for business. If Lot was selling cattle or crops harvested from his fields, he could take advantage of the economic benefit of being located right next to two major cities.

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> In other word, Lot justified his decision by saying, Well, I know what they're doing is wrong, but I'm not doing it. He begins by facing Sodom and Gomorrah. Then he gets closer and closer to Sodom and Gomorrah until finally he winds up in Sodom and Gomorrah.

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> **AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE**

> There was a time when some enemies captured Lot while he was in Sodom. And just as He does with us, God gave Lot an opportunity to escape the situation before real judgment began to fall. God used Abraham and his trained men to rescue Lot by force. But as soon as Abraham got him out, Lot went right back to Sodom.

> (*Genesis 14:14-16*)

> Lot had grown attached to the city and found comfort in the midst of the

wickedness. This often happens with people after they are delivered. They return to a life filled with darkness because it's familiar. As the Bible says, They prove the point of the proverbs, A dog goes back to it's own vomit and "A" scrubbed-up pig heads for the mud (*2 Peter 2:22*)

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> When God decided it was time to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness, He sent two angels to help Lot move his family out of the area. When the Angels arrived, they found Lot sitting at the gate of Sodom. He was now one of the public officials greeting people as they entered the city. Later that evening, when a mob surrounded his house to have sex with his two angelic visitors. Lot went out to speak with them. Brothers, he said-he is so deeply ingrained in this wicked place that he considers them his brothers.-I beg of you, do not behave so wickedly. Notice their reply. But they said, Stand back!!! And they said, this fellow came in to live here temporarily, and now he presumes to be our judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them (*Genesis 19:9*) It's interesting to note that what began as Lot's temporary plan ended up having life altering consequences. Why?? You cannot manage sin.

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> UNMANAGEABLE

> We have to reach the point where we become mature and honest enough to say, There is something or somebody in my life that is slowing me down from reaching the goal God has ordained for my life. We can't sit around and play the it's not hurting me or it's not bothering me or I can handle it game because sin cannot be managed. The reason you can't manage sin is because sin is never satisfied. If you give sin one small open door, your system will adjust to that level of sin and want more. Perhaps somebody's sent you an e-mail, and when you open it, a pop-up appears. Curiosity gets the best of you, and you follow the bunny trail and mistakenly end up on a pornography website. Before you know it, you have an ungodly memory embedded in your system because of something inadvertently set before your eyes.

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> If you do not do something to safeguard your web browsing, you'll be back-same time, same channel-hoping for one more illicit glimpse. If you don't take some action to protect yourself, you'll tell yourself. I'm going to do this only one more time. But one more time turns into two more times, then three, and so on until you have created a habit. Once your system gets accustomed to viewing porn, it will

start to scream at the thought of you stopping it. You can be saved for fifteen or twenty years and have been free from pornography (or whatever the issue of your past was), but the enemy will still poke and prod you to see if he can get you to go back to where you used to be. This basically is what happened to Lot and his family.

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> 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. 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. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: 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. (*Genesis 19:15-20*)

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> Despite the mercy of God, Lot still didn't voluntarily leave. The angels had to drag him and his family out of Sodom and Gomorrah. They tell him he needs to get far away and not look back. Lot says, Fine, I'm going to leave. But just let me go right down the street. Lot didn't want to get too far away. He was willing to leave, but he was hoping to return. When all is said and done, he figured, I can turn around and get back to business as usual. After they got away from the city, Lot's wife turned around because she just had to get one more glimpse of their home- and turned to salt (*Genesis 19:26*)

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> How did Lot get so attached to Sodom and Gomorrah? It began when he caught a tantalizing glimpse of the place. It is so very important to be mindful of what you see. One of the ways good or bad enter your heart is through the eyes gates. What you constantly place before your eyes will indeed enter your heart and impact your perspective.

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> DON'T LOOK BACK

>The devil doesn't care if you have been saved for two weeks, two years, or twenty years. He will constantly hang around, waiting for an opportunity to knock on your door and invite you to return to the place you used to be. This is THE LOT TEST. How many doors do you have cracked open in your life that could potentially take you back into bondage? You have to constantly pay attention and watch for clues ask yourself, Why am I reconnecting with this person from my past? Why am I thinking about these things? Why am I revisiting things I closed the door on years ago?

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> The devil will use anybody and anything to get you to just look back. That's all he wants you to do initially-just look back. Just pitch your tent in the direction of sin. Just take another peek at what it used to be like.

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> How do you avoid ever going back? Don't look! Get your eyes fixed on the prize that is out in front of you. And get so consumed with where God is trying to take you that you don't have time to consider where you used to be. Do not leave any little doors cracked open. Do not leave yourself any room to return to what you used to do. If pornography is something you struggled with in the past, then put a code on your cable box.

> Get appropriate filters for your compute so you can't view porn sites. Tell your spouse what the issue has been.

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> Become accountable to somebody so you do not have this little secret nobody else knows about. As long as you're living with the secret, there's always a chance that on one of those days when you're not on top of things, the enemy will come knocking on your door. This is what THE LOT TEST is all about. The devil is trying to see if he can get you to glance back as Lot's wife did. But you can't afford to go back. You can't afford to even look back. Instead you need to be determined that you're going to press forward and keep from opening your life and your family line to demonic attacks.

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> PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY LINE

> Familiar spirits are demons that become familiar with particular family for generations. They know the issues that have been that family downfall. This is why you can look at many family lines and see a long string of alcoholism, infidelity, divorce, or teenage pregnancy. It's because there are demonic spirits that have been

assigned to that particular family for the express purpose of keeping each generation bound.

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> When someone in the family gets saved, the enemy is not happy that the power he had over that family line has been broken. But if the individual doesn't guard his heart with the Word of God, the enemy will return to see if there's a way for him to oppress him again. (Luke 11:24) says, When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

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> The word house here does not only mean a dwelling place, like the home we live in. It also means a family or generation. When a person in your family line gets saved, the demonic spirit that has tormented your family for years get kicked out. The demon goes around seeking a new place to rest but can't find any, so he will come back. It may be two or three weeks later, or it may be two or three generations later. But he will come back.

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> And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first (Luke 11:25-26). If he come back and finds the house empty, swept, and garnished, he'll say, OK, I'm not coming by myself. I'm going to go and get seven spirits more wicked than I am. And when these demons arrive, they entrench themselves back into that family line.

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> How did that person end up worse off than before? He didn't have enough safeguards

> in place when the enemy came so he failed THE LOT TEST. You need to be aware of whatever you struggled with before you got saved, and you need to become familiar with what yours parents and grand-parents, and aunts and uncles, and everyone else in your family line has struggled with. Even if you're not dealing with those issues, you owe it to your children to put enough of the Word of God inside of them, and plead the blood of Jesus over them, so that when familiar spirits come by to tempt your children, they will pass THE LOT TEST.

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> **ENJOYING THE PROMISE LAND**

> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are. Before, I press toward the mark for the prize of high calling of God in Christ Jesus (*Phil 3:13-14*).

> As I mentioned before, I enjoy being around people. If you knew me at all, you would know I'm a family- and friendship-oriented person. I'm the type who wants to include everybody and take everybody along for the ride.

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> But I learned years ago that if I tried to drag everybody along with me, none of us would get anywhere. I've discovered that there are some people who do not want to go to the Promised Land-or, more precisely, they do not want to do what it takes to go the Promised Land. They want the benefits of the Promised Land, but they want them while still living in Egypt. Sadly I've realized I can't bring all my friends with me. Through the years I have invited many of my friends to church. Some of them showed up once or twice, but they didn't make attending church part of their lifestyle. As a result they're still struggling with the same things we both used to struggle with, but today I'm free.

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> All we can do is give people an opportunity to be exposed to the same Word that has changed our lives. People have to decide for themselves that they want to go hard after everything God has for them. And there are some people you have to love from a distance until they determine they are willing to sell out to God as you have. This doesn't mean you're better than they are or that you should stop praying for them. What it means is that you are making sure those individuals don't become a temptation for you to link back toward Sodom. It means you're willing to distance yourself from the temptation in order to safeguard your heart.

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> Jesus said, Remember Lot's wife (*Luke 17:32*). You may feel like holding the hand of someone who is content being in bondage and is not ready to leave. But if you do, that means you're either in bondage yourself or very close to it. If your friend or family member wants to stay in Egypt, then you're going to have to let go of his hand so you can enter the Promise Land.

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> There is too much at stake for you to allow the enemy to turn your heart back to the very things God delivered you from. Not only can you miss the will of God for your own life, but also your children and your children's children can be negatively

affected as well. Don't give Satan the satisfaction!!! Keep your eyes on God and allow Him to move you to the next level as you pass THE LOT TEST.