A SHORT BIBLE STUDY

Guarding My Walk with God

Growing Closer to God · Book 7



Learning from Abram and Lot

Andrew Dominguez

Trinfinity Enterprises

Guarding My Walk with God

Learning from Abram and Lot

Andrew Dominguez



Trinfinity Enterprises

Copyright 2026 by Andrew Dominguez.

I own the copyright to everything in this book. I freely allow anyone to read, copy, print, quote, share, and teach from it, and to hand out or post copies, at no cost, as long as the text is not changed and this notice stays with it.

Publishing this book, meaning releasing it as an edition of your own in print or electronic form, whether sold or given away, requires my written permission first. Requests go to andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com.

The full text can be read, printed and downloaded free at trinfinityenterprises.com.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB), with familiar English forms of personal names, copyright 2026 Andrew Dominguez. The complete SLB is free to read at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb.

Published by Trinfinity Enterprises.

A note before you begin. This book is written to teach the Bible and encourage faith. It shares my understanding of Scripture and is offered for study and spiritual growth. It is not counseling, medical, legal, or financial advice. If you are facing a crisis, a health problem, or a legal or money problem, please reach out to a qualified professional as well as your pastor and church family. To the fullest extent the law allows, Andrew Dominguez, Trinfinity Enterprises, and Andrew Dominguez's heirs, estate, successors, and assigns accept no liability for how this material is used.

Contents

Introduction.....5
1 A practical problem and a choice.....5
2 Giving attention to God.....6
3 Recognizing the pull of desire.....7
4 Turning before the pattern hardens.....8

A Note on the Bible Translation Used in This Book

My preferred Bible for personal study, teaching, and research is the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB). I chose it because it is a word-for-word translation in today's language, built on the ancient Scripture sources: the Hebrew and Aramaic of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. I prepared the SLB myself, and the Scripture in this book is taken from it.

Where a literal phrase would mislead an English reader, the SLB gives the writer's meaning in plain words. Words added for sense are set in bold italics so you can see what is in the original and what is not.

The complete Steadfast Literal Bible is free to read, search, download, and print at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb. If you want to check a verse in its full setting or read the translation's preface and principles, that is the place to go.

Above all, my desire is not to promote one translation over another, but to faithfully teach the Word of God, encourage careful examination of the Scriptures, and help readers grow in their knowledge, understanding, and relationship with the Lord.

May every page of this book direct attention not to the translation itself, but to the truth of God's Word and the One whom it reveals.

Introduction

Choices that take us away from the Lord can begin before the consequences become obvious. Genesis 13 (SLB) gives us a useful account to consider. Abram and Lot face a practical problem, and their separation places Lot near a deeply wicked city. The chapter does not tell us everything Lot was thinking, but it tells us enough to learn from.

I have believed in God as long as I can remember, but I drifted from Him more than once through my own bad choices. The drift never started with a crash. It started with small compromises and telling myself I could handle things alone. I wrote this book because steady faith needs daily attention, not just a strong start.

1 A practical problem and a choice

Abram and Lot have possessions and livestock, and the land cannot support them together. Their herdsmen quarrel. Abram proposes separation and allows Lot to choose where to go. The story starts with an ordinary problem that needs a decision.

Lot sees the well-watered plain of the Jordan and chooses it for himself. The narrator also tells us about the wickedness of Sodom. That information matters. The reader is being shown more than attractive land. A good-looking opportunity can put a person right next to trouble.

Genesis 13 (SLB) never shows Lot building an altar, but that does not prove he had no relationship with

God. Peter calls him "righteous Lot," a man who "tormented his righteous soul" over what he saw in Sodom (2 Peter 2:7-8, SLB). Lot was a believer who made a poor choice, and that is why his story is a warning for us.

Lot's story did not end in Genesis 13. Before long he was living in Sodom, and he was carried off when the city was raided (Genesis 14:12, SLB). When judgment came, he lingered, and the angels had to take him by the hand and lead him out of the city. He lost his home, and his wife looked back and became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:16, 26, SLB). Lot never set out to end up there. He just kept moving toward what looked good.

For my own life, the question is how I weigh an opportunity. Money, comfort, and how things look can matter, but they should not be the only things I weigh. I need to consider what the choice will encourage, what it may expose others to, and whether I am overlooking a clear warning because I want the benefit.

For years I was a fully functioning alcoholic. I was successful at work and hid my drinking. Every day I chose between coming clean and managing appearances, and for a long time I chose the lie. That ended on May 29, 2020, when my wife caught me and took me to my first 12-step meeting that same day. Guarding our walk starts when we stop managing the problem in secret.

2 Giving attention to God

Abram returns to the place where he had previously made an altar and calls on the name of the Lord. Later in the chapter he builds an altar at Hebron. These are recorded actions, and they show worship as part of his life. Abram kept coming back to worship, and that is the pattern I want.

Regular attention to God's Word and prayer helps me examine my priorities. It gives me an opportunity to notice when I have begun defending something I once recognized as wrong. Missing a quiet time does not explain every bad decision, but neglect does leave me less alert.

The deeper issue is responsiveness. Am I willing to let the Lord correct what I want? Can I hear a warning without immediately searching for an exception? A person can keep a religious schedule while resisting correction. The habit and the heart need to remain connected.

I want to make room for that kind of honesty. Read a passage with attention. Pray about the decision that is actually in front of me. Ask for counsel from someone who will do more than agree. These are simple ways to make sure what I want is not the only voice I am listening to.

3 Recognizing the pull of desire

> *And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God **is**, the good and well-pleasing and perfect **will**.*
>
> **Romans 12:2 (SLB)**

An opportunity can become so attractive that I begin explaining away everything that makes it questionable. The issue may be money, attention, influence, or simply the desire to have my own way. The object changes, but the need for a renewed mind remains.

Romans 12:1-2 (SLB) calls believers to a life offered to God and a mind being renewed. That reaches further than changing a few visible habits. It concerns the way I judge what is good and pleasing before the Lord. If my thinking is shaped entirely by the values around me, I should not be surprised when my choices follow them.

I can examine the reasons I give for a decision. Am I being honest about the cost? Have I considered the effect on my family and responsibilities? Am I using a spiritual phrase to make a personal desire sound like a command from God? These are useful questions to bring into prayer and wise counsel.

Desire itself is not proof of wrongdoing. God gives good things, and gratitude is appropriate. The concern is what happens when a desire becomes more important than obedience. I want to receive good things with thankfulness while remaining

willing to refuse an opportunity that would require me to compromise.

I always drank off and on, but it was not a problem I could not control. Then in 2014 I had a major hiking accident that took four major surgeries to partly repair. Over the next six years I used alcohol to deal with the pain, a little at first and a lot by the end. Masking the pain became a full-blown addiction. Desire pulls us step by step until a habit feels normal (James 1:14-15). Recognizing that pull early is the difference between stepping back and getting caught.

4 Turning before the pattern hardens

> *But be doers of **the** word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*
> **James 1:22 (SLB)**

> *And let us not lose heart in doing the good, for in **its** own time we will reap, not fainting.*
> **Galatians 6:9 (SLB)**

James 1:22 (SLB) calls for doing the Word rather than merely hearing it. Knowing that a choice is wrong does not protect me if I continue making it. Understanding becomes useful when I respond. Sometimes the next faithful step is simply to stop defending the pattern.

Repentance should be concrete. I may need to tell the truth to someone I misled, remove an opportunity I keep using to sin, or ask a mature believer to help me remain accountable. The action should fit the actual problem. A large promise without a practical

response can become another way to postpone change.

Galatians 6:7-9 (SLB) takes sowing and reaping seriously and encourages perseverance in doing good. I should not expect every consequence of a poor decision to disappear immediately. Forgiveness and the repair of damage are related, but they are not identical. Faithfulness may require patience while trust is rebuilt.

My hope rests in God's grace, which gives me reason to turn toward Him instead of hiding. The warning in this story is not an invitation to despair over every mistake. It is an invitation to pay attention, receive correction, and choose the direction of obedience. The next choice still matters.

Looking back, there were warning signs I drove right past because nothing had blown up yet. I was still doing well at work, so I told myself it was fine. Waiting until a pattern hardens makes the turn back much steeper. When God convicts us early, turning right away spares us and the people we love.

Guarding My Walk with God

✦ ✦ ✦

Drifting from God usually starts long before anyone notices. Through the account of Abram and Lot in Genesis 13, this book looks at the choices that pull us away and how to turn back before the pattern hardens.

And do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, the good and well-pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (SLB)

Book 7 of 9 in the collection Growing Closer to God

Free to read, copy, print and share.

Trinfinity Enterprises
TrinfinityEnterprises.com

Scripture quotations are taken from the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB), with familiar English forms of personal names, copyright 2026 Andrew Dominguez. The complete SLB is free to read at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb.