

## LIVING IN THE HEDGE, NOT THE HOOD

Last week we studied the doctrine of God's Hedge and the angelic conflict – Satan - **“Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side?”**

This week we will study about life and death within God's Hedge in the angelic conflict.

In the first court appeal regarding Job and the angelic conflict, Lord gave Satan limited authority to operate within the hedge – *“Behold, all that he has is in your power only do not put forth your hand on him.”* (1:12)

In the second court appeal regarding Job and the angelic conflict, the Lord extended Satan's limited authority within the hedge – *“Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”* (2:6)

What is God teaching us about the life and death for the believer within God's Hedge?

**We will study FIVE aspects of Living in the Hedge and not the Hood.**

**1. Note that Job's children were categorized as part of the first angelic conflict *all that he has* in Job 1:12, 18-19.**

Job's first angelic conflict involved the lost of possessions or details of life (1:13-22). He lost herds and servants and sons and daughters.

This teaches us that in DI#3 (family), children are details of life to the parents. We are also taught that in the divine agency, children are a valued asset to the Lord (Matt.18:1-6) – *“See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.”* (Matt.18:10)

**2. Note also that everything Job had including himself was inside God's Hedge in the angelic conflict (1:10; 2:6).**

As to life and death, this included Job, his wife, his children, his servants, and his livestock. Everything within God's Hedge was under Job's delegated authority.

Job's children had not gone out and established to live under their own Hedge of God (1:4-5, 18-19). They were still identified with Job's Hedge by association. *Job's hedge was their hood.* This meant blessings and cursing by association with a spiritual mature believer (Heb.5:13-14) – *“Blessings crown the head of the righteous.”* (NIV, Prov.10:6a)

**3. The principle of living under your own Hedge of God can be illustrated with Abraham and Lot in Gen.13: 5-13.**

**It was time for Lot to live in his own Hedge of God** – *“And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.”* (Gen.13:6)

Abraham said to Lot – *“Please separate from me: if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left.”* (13:9)

Unfortunately, Lot wanted the freedom in Christ without considering the cost in the angelic conflict (Phil1: 29; Gal.5: 1, 13).

How did Lot fair in the angelic conflict in his own Hedge of God? (Gen.14-19). Abraham had to rescue him twice as a hostage. Once in Gen.14, as a hostage of a human enemy and a second time as a hostage of human evil (Gen.18-19).

Why couldn't he fight the good fight to win? (1 Tim.6:11-12; 1 John 5:4). The last mention of Lot is in 2 Pet.2: 6-9.

#### **4. The goal of spiritual maturity is to live within your own Hedge of God.**

To live within God's Hedge successfully, you must walk by faith consistently with God. It is interesting that as soon as Lot left, God told Abraham to see some of things within his Hedge (Gen.13:14-17). *"Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I give it to you."* (13:17)

God was telling Abraham to exercise authority (walk by faith) over the promised covenant of God's Hedge (Gen.12:1-3; 2 Cor.5:7).

Hebrew 11 mentions those who walked by faith in God's Hedge (Enoch and Noah and Abraham; Heb.11:5-10).

You want your own ministry? Are you ready to depend upon God alone? Are you ready to take command of the spiritual leadership of your Hedge of God? ***It is the difference between living in the Hedge or the Hood.***

#### **5. Job is the classic example of a spiritual mature believer who walked by faith in God's Hedge during the heated battle of the angelic conflict.**

How did Job lose the gifts of God's grace on his watch? Job lost everything but his wife and life.

How did Job lose lives on his watch in God's Hedge? Job lost his children, servants, and livestock. How does it happen on spiritually mature believer's watch? How did it happen to Job?

**This is the purpose for the Book of Job!** *"Behold, we count them blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance (perseverance) of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."* (James 5:11)

God allowed it in the angelic conflict. Why? (Read Job 1:8-11, 22 and 2:3-6, 9-10) (Read chs. 38-41 and answer the *where were you when* questions).

**"Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God."**