



Why Don't I Have What I Want?
The Basics PART 2
"The Way You Live"

November 9, 2025

Question: Five Reasons Why Don't I Have What I Want?

1. My Thinking
2. My Lifestyle
3. My Culture
4. My Unwillingness to Face Issues
5. My Unanswered Questions
 - (Q/A: The issues we avoid and why — politics, financial pressures, lack of support, and the fear of failure. We often hesitate to ask for help because it feels like admitting defeat.)

Main Text: Genesis 13:8–12 (NIV)

- So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling ... If you go to the left, I'll go to the right ... Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan ... was well watered ... Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom."

Question: How has your life choices affected those around you?

I. Abraham's Lifestyle Choices Conflicted with God's Design

1. Refusing to Confront Issues (The ongoing strife with Lot – Genesis 13:5–9)
2. Taking Hagar as a Wife – Genesis 16:3–4. This shortcut birthed Ishmael. Hagar's descendants became the Ishmaelites, later associated with Arab tribes that often opposed Israel (Genesis 25:12–18).
3. Refusing to lead his family with a generational awareness (What he did would last beyond him)

Note: His extended family became his mortal enemies

Question: What strife have you participated in creating?

II. Abraham's Lifestyle Choices Created a Long-term Family Connection

Note: The Moabite, Ammonite, and Ishmaelite (His Enemies Were All Family)

Lineage	Origin Story	Later Relationship to Israel
Moabites	Lot's eldest daughter + Lot (Gen 19:36–37)	Hired Balaam to curse Israel (Num 22:1–6); seduced Israel into idolatry (Num 25:1–3).
Ammonites	Lot's younger daughter + Lot (Gen 19:38)	Denied Israel passage (Deut 23:3–4); fought Israel (Judg 11).
Ishmaelites	Hagar + Abraham (Gen 16:11–12; 25:12–18)	Nomadic tribes, some allied with Midian against Israel (Judg 8:24).

III. Abraham Had a Life-style Habit of Building Altars (He Built Four Altars)

1. At **Shechem** (Genesis 12:6–7): Abraham built an altar when the Lord appeared to him and promised to give the land to his descendants.
2. Between **Bethel and Ai** (Genesis 12:8): He built an altar and called on the name of the Lord as an act of worship and dependence.
3. At **Hebron** (Genesis 13:18): **After separating from Lot** and receiving God's renewed promise, Abraham built an altar to the Lord.
4. On **Mount Moriah** (Genesis 22:9): Abraham built an altar in obedience to God's command to **offer Isaac as a sacrifice**.

In my freshman year, a professor said: An altar is a place you meet God. Where do you meet God?

IV. When Abraham Built His Altars

1. He built an altar after he accepted the **call** to Canaan
2. He builds an altar after a spiritual **encounter**
3. He built an altar after **separating** from Lot
4. He built an altar after God **challenged** his faith (by offering Isaac)



Next Time: The reason why you can't have what you want because of the way you build your culture.