



*Dr. Jan McNutt, D. Min.*

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## **“Are You Counted Among the Ten?”**

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The week prior to Hurricane Katrina the Lord began to speak to me regarding righteousness.

As I studied Genesis 18, I kept thinking about how incredibly Holy the Lord is and how undone I am. While reading this chapter, I knew the Lord was showing me something. I could almost hear God’s and Abraham’s conversation about Sodom and Gomorrah. It is apparent in these scriptures how extremely fed up the Lord was with these cities because sin was rampant and righteousness was absent.

These verses revealed an intense dialogue between the two of them. Abraham sensed the Lord’s grace had been stretched to the max and he knew something terrible was about to happen. He was personally interested in these cities because his nephew, Lot lived there. He cried out to the Lord for mercy and asked God if there were fifty righteous would He withhold His anger. As you know, Abraham took the count from fifty righteous to ten righteous. Abraham’s plead for these cities to be spared ended with God saying;“...”I will not destroy it for the sake of ten” (Genesis 18:32b). Sadly enough, there were not ten righteous to be found.

Although Lot was taken out of Sodom and Gomorrah before the destruction, Lot could not discern the evil condition of where he was living. Had it not been for the two Angels sent to rescue him and his family, he would have perished with all the rest of the people. (How many of us sit in a spiritual stupor and cannot discern where we are?)

During this time of studying the Word, the Lord began to speak to me. He asked me a sobering question which was, “Jan, can you be counted among the ten righteous?” I sat frozen, realizing that the Lord was not only speaking to me, but this is a question for every believer in every city in America, (which would have included New Orleans on that day).

I can’t say I knew New Orleans was going to be devastated just the week after I had studied about Sodom and Gomorrah. But one thing I do know, the Lord is speaking to me about cities in America being in the same sin as Sodom and Gomorrah and He is not going to overlook them much longer.

I am not saying New Orleans is the only city in America that falls into the category of sin similar to Sodom and Gomorrah. But I think New Orleans should be an example of how sinner and saint alike can be put through a test of their faith. Although there were many deaths, God spared many lives during Hurricane Katrina and much like Lot; they were taken out before the destruction took place. Thank God for His Mercy!



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As sad as the events of this week have been this posting is not meant to sound all gloom and doom. It is a call to pray for the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. It is not time to be discouraged. It is time to get on our face before God and repent for the sins of our nations.

I don't know exactly what lies ahead for the cities in America, but I agree with my friend Dr. Stephen Houston ([www.thehoustonfiles.com](http://www.thehoustonfiles.com)). He believes we have entered into what the Bible calls "the beginning of birth pangs.."

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