

**Lecture 19: The Spiritual Crisis**

**Review and Introduction:** The article last considered, from the *Sunday School Times*, was written during the period Professor Barrs reviews in this lesson. He begins by surveying another article of the period published in *The Christian Beacon*, February 21, 1950, entitled “Dangers from Without and Within.” He proceeds to review the family’s activities during 1950 and then to focus on Dr. Schaeffer’s spiritual crisis of late 1950 and early 1951.

**The Spiritual Crisis**

1950: A Time of Preparation (see article)

## I. The Danger From “Without”

A. Context: The battle over the nature of Scripture and neo-orthodoxy

B. Schaeffer predicted

1. A greater battle in the future
2. Increase in power of the WCC
3. Increased complexity and compromise

C. Summary of the outward battle

1. The danger of discouragement
2. The danger of compromise

## II. The Danger From “Within”

A. He is committed to fighting but he is troubled

B. Two paths to this danger

1. Negativism—standing against people should not be the real purpose
2. Contending can become a habit—love may be lost

## III. The Schaeffers in 1950

A. Awareness of the problem in the movement and in himself

B. Family activities

1. More traveling (*Tapestry*, pages 231f; 338)
2. “Normal life” (*Tapestry*, page 320)

C. House guests

D. Interest in current events

E. Personal difficulties

## IV. The Crisis

A. Its causes

1. A growing sense of a lack of reality in the movement
2. An increasing dissatisfaction with himself and his walk with God

B. Its depth (*Tapestry*, page 354)

C. Its results

1. Confidence in the sufficiency of the evidence for Christian belief
2. Better understanding of what the Christian life is all about (*True Spirituality*, Preface; *Tapestry*, page 356)
3. The basis for L’Abri

## V. Summary

A. A solid foundation for himself (*Tapestry* page 355)

B. Tremendous compassion for unbelievers

C. Sympathy for struggling believers

D. Urgency of prayer (*Tapestry* page 356)