

1 Samuel 11 — Saul's Finest Hour

March 27, 2022

Have you kept up on the war between Russia and Ukraine? With so much information about the war in the news, sometimes it is hard to keep things straight. So much of the information we find on the Internet is conflicting. For example, NATO claims Russia lost between 7,000-15,000 soldiers on the battlefield. Two weeks ago, Russia claimed it only lost 500. Whom should we believe?

When the war began, the media portrayed the war as an act of Russian aggression and expansion. As time passed, we learned there was more to the story. There are Nazis, a corrupt government, and bioweapons labs in Ukraine we didn't know about. With all this news, it is hard to find a clear good guy and a clear bad guy. There are evil choices made on both sides. That is the way war usually works.

This morning, we are going to look at a war that is not a modern war. It is a war that took place 3,000 years ago. In this war, there was a clear good guy and a clear bad guy. We know without a doubt which side God was on.

If you are new, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. As a church, we are studying the book of 1 Samuel. Today, we are in 1 Samuel 11. Let me give you a little background about what was happening in 1 Samuel before we study 1 Samuel 11.

Background

The people of Israel made a poor choice. They rejected God as their king. They asked old Samuel to give them a human king so they could be like the

nations around them. This was a low point in Israel's history. Whenever a nation rejects God as king, things do not go well.

The story of God giving Israel a king began in 1 Samuel 8. God chose a tall, good-looking, rural farm boy named Saul to be the king. His job was to save God's people from their enemies, especially the Philistines. After Samuel anointed Saul as king, Saul received three confirming signs from God that he was indeed chosen as king. One of the things Saul was to do once anointed king was to fight against the Philistines at Gibeah-Elohim. Surprising all of us, Saul didn't do anything. He hid the fact God chose him as king!

When Saul's uncle asked Saul what happened when he met Samuel, Saul hid everything that happened. He didn't tell people he was chosen as king. Since Saul hid his anointment, last week we saw Samuel have a second public anointing of Saul as king. This one he couldn't hide! Samuel assembled the people at Mizpah. Drawing lots, the lot fell to Saul. That looked like a chance happening, but the truth is nothing happens by chance. God is in charge of all seemingly random events. God ordained that the random drawing of lots would fall to Saul and that is the way God would publicly identify him as king! Even though the lot fell to Saul, when people went to find him, he was nowhere to be found. God had to tell them Saul was hiding in the baggage! They pulled him from the baggage and publicly proclaimed him as king! Afterward, Saul went home and did nothing kingly. He returned to the life of a farmer.

What was painfully obvious to everyone was Saul did not fit the profile of a king. He was not a strong leader. He was not known for taking initiative. His

natural personality did not lend him to being a strong public figure. At Mizpah, some men questioned Saul as king. They said, “How can someone like this save us?” As time went on, their question appeared to be justified. Between the end of chapter 10 and the beginning of chapter 11 --- where we find ourselves this morning --- weeks, maybe months passed. The whole time Saul did nothing. People came to expect that Saul would do nothing. He was anointed as king, but he certainly didn’t act like one. He was more comfortable by himself plowing a field.

Today, everything is about to change. Why did things change? Let's look at 1 Samuel 11 to find out.

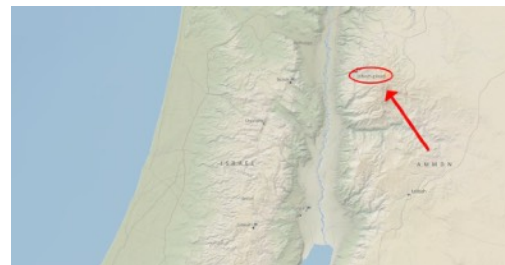
There was a crisis in Jabesh-gilead.

Across the Jordan River from Saul’s hometown and 40 miles to the northeast there was a crisis.

Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead... 1 Samuel 11:1 (ESV)

So far in 1 Samuel, we have heard about the Philistines that threatened Israel from the coast on the west. The threat of the Philistines continued for the rest of Saul’s life. Now we are introduced to

another enemy of Israel. They came from the east. They were known as the Ammonites. The Ammonites have a colorful history. They began as one of Israel’s relatives but by this time in history they were Israel’s bitter enemy.



In the book of Genesis, you will remember Lot that was Abraham's nephew. Abraham and Lot's herds grew to the point that they could not dwell together. To create space between them, Lot moved to the area of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was a beautiful place to live, but it was a sinful town. It was so sinful that God decided to destroy the cities. God graciously visited Lot with angels to tell Lot, his wife, and his daughters to get out of the city before God destroyed it. While running from the city, Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. Eventually, Lot ended up living alone with his two daughters. Since there were no men for them to marry, Lot's daughters entered into an incestuous with their father to conceive children. The older daughter conceived a son. She named him Moab. He became the father of the Moabites. The other daughter conceived a son. She called him Ben-Ammi. He became the father of the Ammonites. Even though the Moabites and Ammonites were related to Israelites, they became the enemies of God's people. The hostility between the Ammonites and the Israelites kicked into gear when Israel was coming out of Egypt to the Promised Land.

"No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the Lord. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the Lord forever, because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you." Deuteronomy 23:3–4 (ESV)

While the hostility between the Israelites and Ammonites began during the Exodus, in the recent past, during the time of the Judges, there was renewed fighting. The Ammonites tried conquering the Israelites but God raised up a Judge named Jephthah. He saved Israel from the Ammonites and took back 20 cities. Since that time the Ammonites had been licking their wounds and looking for an opportunity for a little revenge. The attack by Nahash was that payback.

...and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you." 1 Samuel 11:1 (ESV)

This doesn't sound like a significant verse, but it is. The men of Jabesh were not just trying to avoid violence by offering to make a peace treaty with an old enemy. By offering to serve Nahash and establish this treaty, they were offering to let Nahash the Ammonite become their king.

There are a number of subtle surprises that we might not catch unless we take a moment to stop and think about things. For the last few chapters, weren't the Israelites asking for a king so they could be like the other nations? In the last chapter, didn't God just give them a king? Saul was given as the king that would rescue them from their enemies. In the last chapter, all of the people, including the people of Jabesh-gilead, recognized Saul as the king that was given to them by God to save them from their enemies.

At this point, the people of Jabesh-gilead were not even bothering to call on Saul. They didn't think a king that hides in the baggage would be able to help them. They thought the people in the last chapter that doubted Saul's ability to save anybody were right. When they didn't even bother to call Saul, that was a massive no-confidence vote on King Saul.

There are a few details we don't see in our Bible, but they are helpful to know as we study this chapter. How many of you have heard about the Dead Sea Scrolls? They are the oldest copies of the Old Testament that we possess. They are up to a thousand years older than manuscripts we previously used for some Old Testament books. One scroll from the Dead Sea found in cave 4 contains an early copy of the book of 1 Samuel. In that scroll, and only in that

scroll, there are additional details added by a scribe. These details are not in your Bible because no other early copies of 1 Samuel contain these details. That means they were not originally part of 1 Samuel.

Josephus, the ancient Jewish historian from the first century, wrote about these comments in this scroll and while he didn't feel it was originally part of 1 Samuel, he felt it was probably historically accurate. Let's see what it says.

Nahash, king of the Ammonites, was oppressing the Gadites and Reubenites severely, and he was boring out every right eye, allowing no one to save Israel. There was no one left among the Israelites across the Jordan whose right eye Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had not bored out. Seven thousand men had escaped from the power of the Ammonites, however, and had come to Jabesh Gilead. 1 Samuel 10 — Dead Sea Scrolls Cave 4.

If this is true, Nahash had already overtaken all the Israelite cities east of the Jordan River. Jabesh-gilead was Israel's last stand east of the Jordan. Imagine being the last city left to be conquered. This extra bit of commentary from the Dead Sea Scrolls explains why Nahash responded to their offer for a peace treaty the way he did.

But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel." 1 Samuel 11:2 (ESV)

Nahash said he'd make a peace treaty with them but only if he could gouge out the right eye of every man, woman, and child in the city. Everyone in the city from the newborn child to the old man would lose an eye. Just like the other cities east of the Jordan that Nahash conquered, everyone would become a one-eyed cyclops. Why would somebody do this? How could they be so evil? There are two reasons. Josephus wrote about this passage, saying that in ancient warfare men interlocked shields so the left eye was behind the shield.

The right eye peeked around the shield so they could fight. Gouging out the right eye rendered men helpless to fight in military formation. With the one remaining eye, they could still serve in slave labor.

Gouging out the eye of everyone you conquered also made it easy to identify who was to serve as a slave.

The Bible tells us there was another clear purpose to this brutal humiliation. It was to humiliate people. Imagine if you and your loved ones were left with a hole in your head in place of your eye. That was a lasting and psychologically terrifying experience of your complete powerlessness against your enemy. If that brief comment in the one scroll from the Dead Sea is right, Nahash was already in the habit of doing this to his enemies. I am sure it left other nations terrified of him as they knew what would happen to them and their families if they lost in battle against him.

The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days' respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you." 1 Samuel 11:3 (ESV)

This sounds pathetic. They considered themselves helpless. They didn't cry out to God and ask for help. They definitely didn't think about sending for Saul, God's chosen one to save them from their enemy. They didn't send for Saul because they had no confidence in Saul.

They proposed sending messengers throughout the land of Israel in the vague hope that someone would come to their rescue. Apparently, Nahash thought so little of Israel's strength that he agreed to wait seven days to see what would happen rather than begin a siege of the city.

The Savior from Gibeah

When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the ears of the people, and all the people wept aloud. 1 Samuel 11:4 (ESV)

The account doesn't waste following the messengers as they traveled through the country desperately begging for help. Apparently, they didn't get help. We are taken straight to the moment when they came to Gibeah of Saul, which means Saul's hometown. When the messengers arrived in the town, they didn't go looking for Saul. Even though Saul was king, everybody was ignoring him. Nobody was expecting leadership or initiative from him because up to this point he never displayed it. The messengers reported the terrifying crisis the people of Jabesh-gilead were faced with, and everyone wept.

What most of us don't realize is that there is a good reason for this weeping. There was a close connection between the city of Jabesh-gilead and Gibeah, Saul's hometown. The book of Judges describes a bloody civil war in the nation of Israel. As a result of the civil war, the tribe of Benjamin was almost completely destroyed. At the end of the civil war, only 600 Benjamite men remained. They were spared so that tribe of Israel would not be destroyed. But how was the tribe of Benjamin to continue? These men needed wives and everyone already made a vow they would not give their daughters to the Benjamite survivors as wives. What were they do? At that time, they discovered nobody from the city of Jabesh-gilead came to fight in the civil war. As a result, they kidnapped 400 virgins from the city of Jabesh-gilead and gave these young women to the Benjamite men to be their wives. You can read more details about the story in Judges 21.

The reason I give you this backstory is so you know that by the time of Saul, most of the people in the Benjamite city of Gibeah were related to the people of Jabesh-gilead. Hearing the news that all the people of Jabesh-gilead were about to lose their right eyes was something the people of Gibeah took personally. The people of Jabesh-gilead were their family, their relatives.

Even though Saul was anointed and publicly chosen as king by the people for the purpose of saving them from their enemies, notice that none of the people in Saul's hometown responded to this news by going to Saul for help. At this point, it was not just the people of Jabesh-gilead that didn't believe in him but even the people of Saul's hometown didn't consider asking King Saul for help.

Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, "What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?" So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh. 1 Samuel 11:5 (ESV)

As the people were weeping, Saul appeared. He was coming in from the field behind his oxen. Even though he was king, he wasn't acting like a king. He was acting like a farmer plowing the family fields with an ancient version of a tractor.

Notice nobody went to Saul to tell him why they were weeping. He had to pull the information out of people. That was another no-confidence vote for Saul as king.

All of that was about to change. Finally, Saul would lead. Nobody would forget the day he did. The change did not come because Saul decided to change. The change did not come because the people decided to change. Everything was about to change in Saul's life because God made the change.

And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled. 1 Samuel 11:6 (ESV)

The spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words. This is not the first time this happened to him. After he was anointed king, the spirit of God rushed on Saul at that time. He was supposed to attack the Philistine garrison at Gibeah-Elohim, but he did nothing. Now the Holy Spirit rushed on him a second time. Let's just call this a Holy Spirit booster shot. The Hebrew language used here is the same words used to describe the Holy Spirit rushing on Samson in the book of Judges, giving him supernatural strength. The Spirit of God rushing on Saul did not give him supernatural strength. It took a cowardly, quiet man who displayed almost no leadership and gave him so much courage and initiative that he led a nation into battle.

At last, Saul stepped to the plate and led. He did what he was called, equipped and empowered by God to do. What we are about to see is Saul's finest hour. None of it happened because of his natural gifting and temperament. It all happened when the Holy Spirit rushed into his life and transformed him into a different person, equipping him to be and do exactly the opposite of the way he was naturally gifted and wired. The Holy Spirit changed everything about Saul so everyone would know the rescue that was about to happen did not come from a naturally gifted and powerful leader but came from a man that was completely unfit for the job but he was touched, transformed, and equipped to lead a nation by God and not his own strength.

He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of the messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!" Then the dread

of the LORD fell upon the people, and they came out as one man. 1 Samuel 11:7 (ESV)

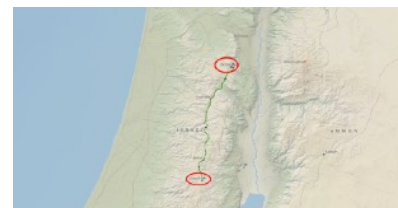
The messengers that were sent through the land searching for someone to save them were now sent back through the land with a new message. Instead of saying, "Can somebody help?" Now their message was, "King Saul tells you that you must come and help. If you don't come, your oxen are turning into hamburgers." This was crazy strong leadership, crisis level leadership, from the man who hid in the baggage. Do you see the sudden change in his character?

It says the dread of the Lord fell on the people and they came out as one man. Just as Saul's sudden leadership was given by God when the Holy Spirit rushed on him, the Holy Spirit also touched the hearts of the people in the nation. They all responded favorably to Saul's commands. It says the people came out as one man. The Holy Spirit gifted Saul with crisis-level leadership skills and the Holy Spirit unified the people behind Saul as their leader.

The Victory from Bezek

When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. 1 Samuel 11:8 (ESV)

Bezek was north of Gibeah. It was approximately as far north as Jabesh-gilead but it was on the west side of the Jordan River.



A lot of people showed up for battle --- 330,000 people is a huge number. Some scholars point out the word thousand in Hebrews is sometimes used as a term for military units that could contain 50-100 men. If that is true, there was still a lot of people showing up for battle. It may have been 33,000 if you go with the smaller number, but that is still a lot of men.

In my personal opinion, I don't think there is anything wrong with 330,000 people showing up. The point of the prior verses is that everyone showed up! The author also points out that men came from both Israel and Judah. Men from both the northern and the southern kingdoms showed up for battle. The Holy Spirit galvanized the entire nation behind Saul. His sudden initiative and leadership ability were not just the work of the Holy Spirit but the sudden unanimous support for Saul as the leader when people thought nothing of him prior to this was just as much a work of the Holy Spirit.

And they said to the messengers who had come, "Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have salvation.' " When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad. 1 Samuel 11:9 (ESV)

Now the messengers were sent on a third mission. This time it was to return home with the good news that the deliverance they prayed for was on the way. The next day, before noon, it would be over.

This tells us Saul and his army planned to cover the 20 miles from Bezek to Jabesh-gilead and cross the Jordan River that night, that way they could avoid detection and strike Nahash early in the early morning hours with a surprise attack.

Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you." 1 Samuel 11:10 (ESV)

This is a little Hebrew humor. The people of Jabesh-gilead give the Ammonites the impression that their search for a deliverer failed. They said tomorrow they would give themselves up and the Ammonites can start scooping out their eyeballs. There is some intentional ambiguity in Hebrew. The phrase, "we will give ourselves up to you" literally reads, "We will come out to you." They

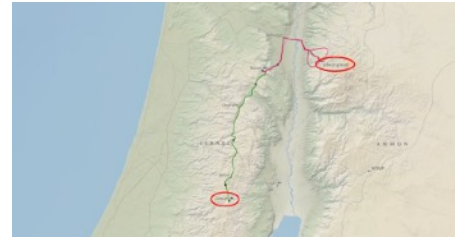
promised to come out of the city, but it wouldn't be for their eyeballs to be scooped out. It would be to join the army that was coming to defeat them.

And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together. 1 Samuel 11:11 (ESV)

The morning watch is between 2-6 a.m. The attack began extremely early in the morning while Nahash's army was asleep and it was still dark. Saul divided his army into three groups, attacking Nahash

from three sides, making it difficult for the Ammonites to retreat since they were encircled. In a little more than six hours, the entire Ammonite army was destroyed. Bodies

were everywhere. While Israel came out as one man, no two of the Ammonites were left together. This was a terrible defeat. It was an amazing victory for God's people against a brutal, evil, and vile adversary.



There is one main application in this chapter. Let's look at it.

Application — The Holy Spirit changes and empowers lives. This victory happened not because Saul was a naturally gifted leader or a military genius. He was a quiet farmer who didn't want to lead. What changed Saul's life and what galvanized the people behind him was the Holy Spirit. The salvation that day did not happen because Israel had a king but because the king was empowered and led by God's Holy Spirit. It was not the office of kingship that made the difference. It was the Holy Spirit working on Saul and on the people that made the

difference. Saul did not deserve the credit for the victory. It was God working in Saul and in the people who deserved all the credit for the victory.

Isn't the same true for us today? How many of you came to Jesus later in life? Do you remember what your life was like before Jesus? Hasn't God made you into a completely different person through his Holy Spirit coming into your life? In the past, before you met Jesus, some of you struggled with alcohol or substance abuse. The Holy Spirit came into your life and broke the power of your addictions. The Holy Spirit made you into a different person. When it comes to any good thing you have in your life and any good works that come out of your life, isn't God the one who gets all the credit? It is God working through us who deserves the credit for any good things happening through us. God's Holy Spirit equips, empowers, and enables us to do the good works God has called us to do.

Others of you do not naturally struggle with weaknesses. You are high achievers. You were at the top of your class. You are successful in business, athletics, and academics. You can naturally lead many things. You are not a leader in hiding like Saul; you are a gifted leader. How does the Holy Spirit change your life when you trust in Christ and God sends the Holy Spirit into your world?

The problem with gifted people, whether that is in athletics or academics, is pride. When you know the answers and can do better than others, it is easy and natural to look down on others, to not care them. Do you know what happens when the Holy Spirit comes into the life of a naturally gifted person? The Holy

Spirit deals with the issue of pride. Someone that is naturally a prideful person by the power of the Holy Spirit becomes a humble and gentle person. He or she becomes a compassionate person who cares about other people, not a prideful person that runs over people.

God's Holy Spirit changes people. Before we talk more about the Holy Spirit and how to be changed by him today, let's finish the chapter.

The Kingdom Renewed

Now it was obvious Saul had ability through the Holy Spirit to save God's people.

Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is it that said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death." 1 Samuel 11:12 (ESV)

While they say it was just the "worthless fellows" in the last chapter that doubted Saul as king, the truth is everyone, even people in Saul's hometown, doubted Saul's ability as king. The only reason nobody sent for Saul at the beginning of the chapter was that nobody believed in Saul then. Humanly speaking, after experiencing Saul's natural temperament, they had every reason to doubt Saul's ability to save the people, but when God's Holy Spirit empowered Saul, he was more than adequate for the task.

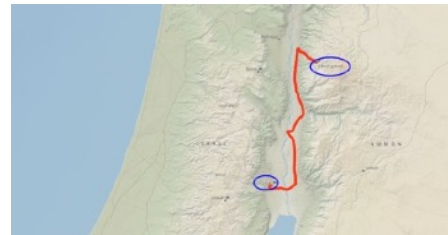
But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has worked salvation in Israel." 1 Samuel 11:13 (ESV)

This is an incredible moment. It was truly Saul's finest hour. While the people were calling for the execution of those who didn't believe in Saul, Saul said nobody was going to die because he knew it wasn't his natural gifts and abilities that saved the day. It was God working through him that saved the

nation. Saul gave God all the credit for the victory. He didn't credit himself. That is the way it should be.

Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom.” 1 Samuel 11:14 (ESV)

Gilgal was an appropriate place to go to renew the kingdom. Gilgal has a special place in Israelite history. It was the place where Joshua took the Israelites when they arrived in the Promised Land after coming out of Egypt. It was the place their ancestors celebrated God saving them from the hands of the Egyptians. Samuel brought the people back to Gilgal so they could celebrate God saving them from the hands of another great enemy, the Ammonites. Could there be a better place to celebrate God rescuing you from your enemies today than the very same location your forefathers celebrated God rescuing them from their enemies in the past?



What does it mean that they will renew the kingdom at Gilgal? One thing was there needed to be a renewed stand of the people behind Saul as their king. At Mizpah, there was a group that doubted Saul. After the Holy Spirit enabled victory over the Ammonites everyone realized that God working through Saul was more than adequate to protect them from their enemies in the future.

Renewing the kingdom was more than reaffirming Saul as king. It was also reaffirming God as king. Earlier, the people rejected God as their king. They wanted a human king to save them like the nations around them. Now it was obvious that it wasn't the strength of a human king that saved them. It was God working through that king that saved them. Renewing the kingship was more

than affirming Saul as king, it was also repenting and reaffirming God as their true king. God was the one who saved them that day. He deserved all the credit. So at Gilgal, the people reaffirmed Saul as king but they also reaffirmed God as the ultimate king who cared for them and saved them.

So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the LORD, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly. 1 Samuel 11:15 (ESV)

Applications

There is one major application in the chapter. It is about the Holy Spirit's ability to change a life. The Holy Spirit is essential for spiritual leadership. Saul's leadership abilities did not come from his natural gifts. It was when the Holy Spirit came upon him that he was transformed into the type of leader the nation desperately needed. The same is true for us. The only way we can be a godly husband or wife, the only way we can be effective for Jesus in church or in the world is not by relying on ourselves and our abilities but by relying on God and his Holy Spirit in us to accomplish the good work he has given to us.

While we see this in principle and in action in 1 Samuel 11, how do we rely on the Holy Spirit today? Let me give you four quick steps.

How do I rely on the Holy Spirit today?

1. **Become a Christian.** In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came on people situationally for specific purposes. Now, God sends his Holy Spirit into us when we trust in Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit that makes us into new people.

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 (ESV)

If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit has come inside of you. If you are not a Christian, the Holy Spirit is not inside of you guiding and empowering you. It is that simple.

2. Make time to regularly read the Bible, asking God to speak to you through God's Word.

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. John 6:63 (ESV)

Jesus said his words are used by the Holy Spirit to create and sustain spiritual life. When we read God's Word, the Holy Spirit takes verses and applies them to our hearts. As we read the Bible, we want to run and grab a highlighter because the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to our lives. The primary way we are directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit is when we read God's Word.

3. Follow the conviction of the Holy Spirit in your heart.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:5 (ESV)

Once we come to Christ and the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts, there will be a battle inside of us. Every day we will hear the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit directing us on how to live. We will also feel the tug of our flesh pointing us in the way we selfishly want to live. Every day we need to decide to listen to the gentle pull of the Holy Spirit in our hearts from the Word of God instead of the loud shouts of our fleshly selves.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

4. Don't rebel against the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells us we are not just to listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to us from the Word of God but we are to avoid a heart that rebels against the Holy Spirit.

Do not quench the Spirit... Abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22 (ESV)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30 (ESV)

Conclusion

As Saul was inadequate for the task of leading the nation until the Holy Spirit entered his life, in the same way, it is only by being led by the Spirit, directed by the Spirit, and empowered by the Spirit that we can follow Christ successfully and live for Christ fruitfully.

This week, will you join me in asking God to send his Holy Spirit into our lives in a powerful way and giving God all the credit for every good work that his Holy Spirit enables us to do?



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, and time with his family. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

© You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided (1) you credit the author, (2) modifications are clearly marked, (3) you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, (4) you include the web address (www.Christ2RCulture.com) on the copied resource.

