

1 Samuel 16:14-23 — The Holy Spirit Changes Lives

June 12, 2022

Good morning CrossWinds! If you are a visitor. It is great to have you. My name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. This morning we will continue in our study of 1 Samuel. We are in 1 Samuel 16:14. While you are getting out your notes and finding that spot in your Bible, I want to share a few quick items of business for the summer.

We are trying something new at CrossWinds. We will have college interns on staff.

The first intern is Charlie Steele. He is a recent graduate of Spencer high school and is a regular part of the Spencer Campus. He will intern under Jeremy in the area of worship. He will also learn worship sound, lighting, and video technology from Tyler, our AVL director. When you see him helping Jeremy with worship make sure you make him feel welcome.



Our second intern is Dallas Johnson. Dallas grew up on the Spirit Lake campus. He is at Dort college studying to be a pastor. He will join us in July as a pastoral intern. The pastoral team will mentor him in a variety of areas. This summer, hHe will also preach once on the Spirit Lake campus and once on the Spencer



Campus. When we see him in July, make sure you let him know how thankful you are to have him on board.

Second, let's talk about our summer teaching. This is our last week in 1 Samuel until late August. Pastor Jordan from the Spencer Campus will be on Sabbatical for the summer so the pastors will be rotating across both campuses and covering both pulpits.

While Pastor Jordan is gone, we are in a topical series called, "What does the Bible say?" We will look at answers to the most commonly asked questions you had on the preaching topic survey we took this spring. Last week, I promised I would give you an overview of that series so let's look at that series. I will just tell you the way things layout for the Spirit Lake Camus.



- Next week, on June 19, I will teach on temptation. We will learn how temptation works and how to beat it.
- The following week, on June 26, we will look at demons. I will teach on that topic. We will learn what role they play in the world and what influence they have on our life.
- That will bring us to July. On July 3, we will look at what the Bible says about angels. I will also be teaching that Sunday. Using the Bible as our lens, we will look into the unseen angelic world and see how God uses angels today.
- July 10 is a special week. The pastors have a week off. We will have pastors from the EFCA district office covering the pulpit on both campuses.
- On July 17 Pastor Kris will teach on the subject of heavenly rewards. While we are saved by grace alone, in addition to our salvation Jesus rewards us for how we live. The doctrine of eternal rewards is one of my favorite topics.

- On July 24 Dallas Johnson, our intern, will teach on the Lord's Supper.
- That will move us to the month of August. On August 7 Pastor Kris will teach on what the Bible says about forgiveness and bitterness. Forgiving people who hurt us is hard. It is easy to get bitter. That will be an important message.
- On August 14 I will be back in Spirit Lake teaching on what the Bible says about homosexuality and transgender. We will look at the sexual confusion in our culture.

After that is August 23 and we will be back in 1 Samuel. If you don't see me or another one of the pastors here on a weekend, it is probably because we are preaching in Spencer or covering the campus in Spencer.

The third piece of information you need to know is that we have something to celebrate. As many of you know, last fall we purchased the north side of the north mall in Spencer to be the permanent home of our Spencer Campus. In October we began a capital campaign to raise \$640,000 for renovations of that site to convert it into a church. This past week we reach full funding for that goal. We have \$643,053. That is great news! The bad news is this little thing called inflation. The current purchase price for some construction materials has doubled. For others, it has more than tripled. We are reengineering our plans. We are reusing materials, and we are purchasing off the used market to keep costs as close as possible to our original budget. We will let you know how things go. We trust God will provide as he always has in the past.

Let's pray and get to our study.

We live in a confusing world. Things are not always the way they appear. A solid-looking house may be worthless because termites ate the wood. I always worry about that when I buy a used car. The salesman can have the car looking great on the lot but he may be concealing serious engine problems.

It is not just with houses and cars that things are not always the way they appear. Sometimes that is the way things are for people. Sometimes you meet a friend and they appear to be loyal but in the end, they stab you in the back. They weren't what they appeared to be.

It is hard for us to evaluate people because we don't know all the information. We can only see a person from the outside. We don't know their heart. As we learned last week, thankfully God is different. In 1 Samuel 16:7 we learned that God doesn't evaluate people from the outside. He always knows the heart. This is why God's word on any subject or about any person is always right. Only God has all the information.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, who would have known the significance of Jesus' birth if they were just looking at things on the outside? Jesus looked no different than any other baby born that night. God knew the truth. He had angels share the truth with the shepherds that night that Jesus was not just another baby. He was God who took on flesh. The savior of the world.

In a similar way, over a thousand years before Jesus, in that same city of Bethlehem, the elderly prophet Samuel poured oil over the head of a young junior-high-age David to privately anoint him to be the next king. On the outside, it didn't look like much changed. Samuel went back to his home in Ramah. David

went back to watching sheep in the field. While it didn't look like anything changed on the outside of David's life, there were drastic changes on the inside as the Holy Spirit rushed into his life from that point forward.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. 1 Samuel 16:13 (ESV)

When the Holy Spirit began working in David's life and through David's life there was no visible difference in David's life on the outside but there was a drastic change on the inside. Today we will learn the same is true for us today. When the Holy Spirit comes into our life, we don't look any different but on the inside of our life, everything has changed.

As we start to look at how the Holy Spirit changes lives, let's see what the Holy Spirit did in people's lives in the Old Testament.

How did the Spirit work in the Old Testament?

The Bible tells us we have one God but he is three persons. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. By God's Holy Spirit, God accomplishes his purposes in creation and through his people.

In the early history of Israel, we see the Spirit of God equipped people to be leaders and to save God's people from disaster. In the period immediately prior to Israel's kings, in the book of Judges, God raised up judges who were empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish their God-given task of leadership to save God's people. Samson was one of the judges. Let's look at how the Holy Spirit worked in his life.

Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tear a young goat... Judges 14:6 (ESV)

Again the Spirit of the lord rushed upon him and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town. Judges 14:19a (ESV)

...Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. Judges 15:14 (ESV)

I like to go to the gym. I like lifting weights. I will never be as strong as Samson. Samson's strength didn't come from exercise. It came from the Holy Spirit coming upon him and empowering him for the task at hand, even if that task was to break a strong rope like it was a piece of yarn.

Saul had the same Holy Spirit rush on him as well. We have seen the Holy Spirit rushing on Saul numerous times in earlier chapters.

And when he came to Gibeah that is what happened "The spirit of the Lord rushed upon him and he prophesied among them." 1 Samuel 10:10b (ESV)

When Saul heard the threat from Nahash the Ammonite who was gouging out eyes, we read this.

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

God's Holy Spirit enabled Saul to prophesy. The Holy Spirit gave Saul righteous anger and empowered him to raise and lead an army.

In each case, the emphasis is that what happened to Samson and Saul came from beyond them. God's Holy Spirit rushed on them. The physical strength, or wisdom, or prophecy came from God, not from themselves. In each case, the Holy Spirit enabled these men to be the leaders' God's people needed at the time.

When Samuel anointed young David in Bethlehem, the same words were used. The Holy Spirit rushed on him and will empower him to be a king, but there is an important addition. What was it?

...And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward... 1 Samuel 16:13 (ESV)

For Samson and Saul, the Holy Spirit empowered them for leadership tasks but we later read of the Holy Spirit leaving them. That did not happen for David. The Holy Spirit came upon him permanently. This is one of the important ways that God's choosing of David as a king would be different. The Holy Spirit indwelled David permanently.

As I said earlier, after old Samuel anointed David and the Holy Spirit rushed on David, there didn't appear to be a visible difference. He went back to tending sheep. Samuel went home to Ramah. Nothing seems to change. Thinking the Holy Spirit made no difference in David's life would be looking at the outside and only looking with our eyes. When it came to David's heart, that is where the big difference was made. This morning we will see that having the Holy Spirit in David's life was the most important thing that could have happened to him. In the same way, having the Holy Spirit is one of the most important things that can happen to us as well.

The Time Gap

One other important point of information for you to know is there is a time gap between 1 Samuel 16:13, where we left off last week, and 1 Samuel 16:14, where we pick up this week. In verse 13, David was in junior high school. In verse 14, David was probably in his early twenties.

In August, when we get to 1 Samuel 17, which is the story of David and Goliath, we will see that 1 Samuel 17 probably took place between verse 13 and verse 14 of this chapter. Let me explain why.

This chapter will conclude with David in Saul's court as Saul's personal harp (guitar) player and the carrier of Saul's weapons. In 1 Samuel 17, Saul and Abner do not know David's name. How is that possible to have David as Saul's personal musician in 1 Samuel 16 but Saul doesn't know David's name in 1 Samuel 17 unless chapter 17 occurred before the end of chapter 16?

Let me explain why these stories are out of order. The first half of 1 Samuel 16 that we looked at last week tells us how the Holy Spirit came into David's life. The second half of 1 Samuel 16, which we will look at today, tells us how the Holy Spirit left King Saul's life. In this chapter, the author is making the point that God's Holy Spirit left one king and is now on a new king. He is showing us the difference the Holy Spirit makes in someone's life.

In addition, 1 Samuel 16 is the dead center of the book. It is the hinge of the book. The first half of the book is about Samuel and Saul. The second half of this book is all about David. In this hinge chapter, the author wants us to know there is a Holy Spirit handoff from Saul to David. After this, the author will look at the stories of David. That is why they are out of order.

The Problem with Saul

[Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul,... 1 Samuel 16:14 \(ESV\)](#)

Last week we read the Holy Spirit rushed on young David. In the next verse, we read the Holy Spirit decisively and permanently departed from Saul. When Saul consistently rejected God's words and refused to obey God's

commands, God not only rejected him as king but God permanently withdrew his Holy Spirit from him.

While Saul is still the king, the Holy Spirit has left him. Instead of God empowering him, from this point forward he was doing everything on his own strength and with his own wisdom. How well do you think that will work out?

So while Saul remained in the office of the king, the guidance and empowerment of God's spirit were gone from his life. Everything looked good on the outside but the one thing that was essential in the heart of a king over God's people was missing from the inside. The Holy Spirit was gone. From this point forward, everything for Saul is like skiing. It is all downhill.

In a similar way people today tend to think the spiritual area of their life has little influence over the practical areas of life. They can live like Saul in a broken relationship with God but it won't impact their job, their marriage, or their friendships. Saul's experience teach us that is not true.

Our relationship with God is the most important influence on our everyday life. It affects everything, our marriage, our kids, the way we work, and our attitude. The job we hold in this world is completely secondary. The place of the Holy Spirit in our lives is of most importance because the Holy Spirit will determine the outcomes of our life.

For example, the Holy Spirit teaches us to forgive and keeps marriages together. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and leads us to apologize when we are wrong. The Holy Spirit guides us into truth and shows us lies in this world so

we are not deceived by them. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life changes everything practical about our life.

This brings us to another question.

Some people wonder if Saul lost his salvation when the Holy Spirit left him. Let me give you some thoughts on that subject. I am not willing to die on this hill. Theologians have debated this topic for centuries so I don't think I have the definitive answer. I don't think Saul was ever born again. He had faith but I don't believe he had saving faith. As the book of James tells us, there is something called fake faith. One of the ways you can tell the difference between fake faith and saving faith is saving faith will always be coupled with a desire to obey God's word. Fake faith doesn't care about obedience. The book of James describes it this way.

[Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? James 2:20 \(ESV\)](#)

So far we have seen Saul was not enthusiastic to obey God's words. If God's will conflicted with his will, he chose his will every time. That is a sign of fake faith, not genuine faith.

Another sign Saul might not have possessed genuine faith is the lack of genuine repentance for his sin. As we saw in previous weeks, when Samuel called him out on his sin, his primary concern was the optics. He was worried about the loss of public status not that God rejected him as king. In that time, what was far more important than Saul's diminished public reputation was how offensive his disobedience was to God. He was filled with worldly grief, not godly

grief. He was more upset that he was caught than upset about what he had done. The Bible talks about the difference between godly grief and worldly grief.

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV)

So Saul lacked obedience in his life and he lacked genuine repentance in his life when he sinned. These are signs that he might have possessed fake faith, not genuine saving faith.

The big idea I have been driving home is the absence of the Holy Spirit is one of the worst things that can happen in our life but the presence of the Holy Spirit is one of the best things that can happen in our life. Having the Holy Spirit in our life is better than winning the lottery. It is better than being as rich as Bill Gates. Why do I say having the Holy Spirit is that good? That is what Jesus said.

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13 (ESV)

If we know how to give good gifts to our kids, God knows how to give better gifts. The gift of the Holy Spirit is one of the best gifts God can give us in our life.

The withdrawal of God's spirit is the worst possible calamity and the presence of God's spirit is the greatest possible help.

It is bad enough that God has now withdrawn his spirit from Saul's life. It gets even worse. God now punishes Saul by sending a harmful spirit to torment him.

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. 1 Samuel 16:14 (ESV)

This has troubled many people. The ESV that we use translates the Hebrew text as a harmful spirit. This is softer than earlier translations which say an evil spirit from God was sent to torment Saul. People wonder, does this mean God was working with demonic powers to torment Saul? How could God do that? That sounds terrible.

God and Satan are not opposites and equals. God is the creator. Satan is a created being and like all created beings God uses Satan for his good purposes. For example, in the book of Job, we saw God allowing Satan to torment Job. The key is Satan could go no further than God allowed in that torment. Satan was like a dog on a leash. He could only do Job what God allowed him to do. In addition, we read about God using the wicked Assyrians to bring judgment on the northern kingdom of Israel and God using wicked Babylonians to bring judgment and exile on the southern kingdom of Judah. Both the Assyrians and Babylonians were dark demonic people, but God used them for his good purposes to discipline his people. If God used Satan for his purposes in Job's life and the demonic forces behind Assyria and Babylon as a form of judgment in the life of his own people, I am sure God can use any kind of harmful or evil spirit he wants to bring judgment into Saul's life.

Saul now finds himself living in a tormented state. Instead of the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit, he experienced torment from a harmful or evil spirit. This was not an accident of nature. This was not a medical condition where he needed meds. This was a supernatural assault by a spiritual being sent by God to bring judgment on Saul for his disobedience and rebellion against God's word.

Some people will look at God and see him as an unjust meanie. How could God be so evil as to send an evil spirit to torment Saul? Remember the reason for this evil spirit was on account of Saul's willful disobedience to God's word which resulted in him being rejected as king over God's people. Folks, this is not God being a meanie. This is a just response to Saul's sin on the part of God. Sin is serious stuff. It is highly offensive to God. The only way for God to take care of the problem of our sin was to have his own son die in our place for our sin. That is the seriousness of sin to God and the offensiveness of sin to God.

In addition, we should be honest and admit this torment of Saul is only a prelude to ultimate eternal justice and eternal torment that everyone who sins and rebels against God will experience. That is called the lake of fire. That is not just what Saul deserved for his sin. That is what all of us deserve for our sin.

There is good news. While God is just, he is also incredibly loving. This is why he sent his own son to die in our place for our sin to take the punishment for sin we deserve to suffer in order to bring us home to God. This is why we are constantly talking about the good news of Jesus at CrossWinds as we are trying to reach people with Jesus. God loves us so much that Jesus who created the universe permanently took on a body to conquer Satan, sin, and death in the universe to bring us to heaven when justice says we deserve the lake of fire. Since Jesus is the one before whom all of us will one day stand as our judge, it behooves us to accept him now as our savior.

So the problem Saul possessed was his disobedience to God. Whenever we sin, what does the Holy Spirit prompt us to do? He calls us to repent. To call

out to God admitting our sin and begging for forgiveness of our sin. What does God say happens to us when we genuinely repent?

...Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. Zechariah 1:3 (ESV)

Saul is stubborn. Saul is hard-hearted. He stubbornly refused to repent. Instead of his servants suggesting repentance, they try to help him in his depressed and tormented state with ancient psychological medication, called music.

Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." 1 Samuel 16:16 (ESV)

We all know music can lift our mood when we are depressed or overwhelmed. They don't have psychiatric drugs. They don't have antidepressants. They have music. They suggest Saul bring into the court a really good musician who will cheer him up and help him through those times when he is tormented by this harmful or evil spirit from God.

What is a lyre? It is an ancient version of an acoustic guitar.

There is a good point of application here. While some psychological conditions are biological in nature and we need to take medicine for those conditions, not all psychological conditions require medication. Some psychological issues are actually spiritual in nature. Just as Saul's servants were trying to fix a spiritual problem with a medical solution, sometimes people go to psychologists looking for a medical drug to solve a spiritual condition.



For example, one of the hardest things to deal with is guilt over our sin, memories of our sin, and the shame of our sin. People will live for years letting the past reach into their present and let the past fill them with guilt and shame over what was done to them or what was done by them. People will spend years trying to pay for their sins to be released from the guilt of what they have done. Psychologists try to solve this by telling people to take a pill.

Psychologists also want people to talk about their childhood and tell them to blame the pain of what they have done or what was done to them on their parents. The truth is that sometimes these are spiritual issues, not psychological issues. The only way to fix them is not by taking a drug. It is to be made right with God through Jesus Christ. When we ask Jesus' death to forgive us of our sin, the blood of Jesus covers our sin. It is taken away from us once and for all. Our sin is no longer our identity. We are made into new people. The past is gone, the new has come. God rebukes us for living in the shame and guilt of our past when Jesus suffered and died to free us from the guilt of our sin because he loves us.

Jesus doesn't just forgive us of what has been done by us but he also gives us the ability to forgive other people for the sin that was done to us! When we experience God's Holy Spirit forgiving us, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to forgive others. Those problems in our life can not be fixed by a psychologist. They can only be fixed by Jesus.

So Saul, and many people, need repentance of sin and God's forgiveness for their sin but instead they get a good musician as medicine to mask their torment.

So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." 1 Samuel 16:17 (ESV)

Here is some irony. God has sense of humor. Saul's words, "Provide for me a man..." are an echo of the way this chapter began when God said in verse 1, "I have provided for myself a king." We are about to see the man Saul provides for himself to set his mind straight will turn out to be the very same man God provided for himself to be king. David!

So you can picture the servants of David huddled in a staff meeting trying to see if anyone knew a good musician who could play the lyre. This person needed to be really good and sing positive and uplifting music, like Jeremy.

One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him." 1 Samuel 16:18 (ESV)

Do you see God's hand in this? One of Saul's servants just happened to have seen David play his lyre (guitar) and sing. He just happened to know that he was a man of bravery. In 1 Samuel 17, David will talk about taking down lions and bears to protect the sheep. That is courage. This man just happened to know David was good at speech and had a good presence about him. Then there is my favorite line. This man was convinced the Lord was with him. This servant of Saul sensed that God had his hand on young David's life.

Do you think it was by chance that this man in Saul's cabinet just happened to run across David playing his instrument? Absolutely not. God orchestrated that chance meeting so that man would be in the right place at the right time to suggest David's name so David would be brought from the fields and the sheep into Saul's court.

What a great reminder that nothing in life happens by chance. God is large and in charge of all things, even meetings that seem to take place by chance. He is orchestrating our lives to bring us where he wants us to be to talk to the people he wants us to know for his good purposes in our lives.

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord. Proverbs 16:33 (ESV)

God controls the rolling of dice. Even seemingly random events are not random events. Nobody wins the lottery by chance. Even seemingly random meetings do not happen by chance.

This is helpful for us. This summer, when we meet people in business or in the community, or in Arnold's Park realize none of those encounters are by chance. God has a good purpose in all of them. We may never know the reason why we meet the people we meet. Some day, like David's servant, we may understand the reason.

The way to approach every meeting in life, since God has a purpose in all of them, is to do our best to bless and encourage the people we meet. Look what Paul says about this.

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

The Solution of David

Remember the interesting part is nobody in Saul's court knows what we know about David from earlier in this chapter. Nobody knows Samuel privately anointed David to be the king to replace Saul when he was in junior high. Saul didn't know that. Saul's servants didn't know that. Saul, the rejected king

unwittingly seeks out the one who has been chosen by god to be his replacement king so David can serenade him to sleep.

Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." 1 Samuel 16:19 (ESV)

Interestingly Saul knew David's name! Saul, of all people, is the first one to bring up the name of David. Apparently, Saul already knew David. This is another indication that the second half of chapter 16 took place after chapter 17 which is the story of David and Goliath. Saul even knew that David would be tending sheep.

Are you seeing the irony and God's sense of humor in this? Saul has invited David into his court. Saul has unwittingly summoned the one who possesses the Holy Spirit because he is in torment since he has lost the Holy Spirit. This looks like it is all happening by chance but in reality, God is lining things up.

And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. 1 Samuel 16:20 (ESV)

That sounds uneventful. It appears to be a random piece of information until you look at the grocery list. When was there a time we saw bread, wine, and a young goat in this book? They were the same items carried by the men who met Saul after he was privately anointed king by Samuel in 1 Samuel 10:3. Subtly we see God moving David into Saul's presence and God moving David to replace Saul as king.

And David came to Saul and entered his service... 1 Samuel 16:21a (ESV)

Saul had no idea the man God intended to replace him was now working for him. David will not officially take over as king until the end of the book. Why

do you think God slides David into Saul's presence to play music for him? I think it was to learn from Saul about what it meant to be a king. That was not just learning positive qualities from Saul but more importantly, it was learning the negative qualities of Saul. This was one of the ways God trained David to be a different kind of king.

God has done the same thing with us, hasn't he? When we were younger, most of us found ourselves working not just for good supervisors, but sometimes we also found ourselves working for poor supervisors. Today we are intentionally different from those poor supervisors. That marked us. They changed us. They helped us understand what we do not want to be like. I think that is what God was doing in David's life at this point. This is why God has David working for Saul and around Saul for so many years. It taught David how to be a different kind of king.

...And Saul loved him greatly,... 1 Samuel 16:21 (ESV)

This means Saul really liked David. David was good at music. Saul was a David groupie. Saul was David's biggest fan. This is interesting. We would expect to read about David loving Saul, and David does love Saul, but we don't expect to read about Saul growing to love David and be one of David's biggest fans. Saul unwittingly has become a big fan of David and he doesn't even know that David was already chosen by God to replace him as king. Does God have a sense of humor or what?

...and he became his armor-bearer. 1 Samuel 16:21 (ESV)

Saul has such loyalty and trust in David that Saul entrusts into David's hands his weapons. There is more than you realize going on here. In the ancient

world, the way a king abdicated his throne and recognized his successor was he handed his military weapons to that person. In 1 Samuel 18:4, we will see Jonathan do that for David. Rather than seeking the throne after his father, Jonathan hands his weapons to David as a way of acknowledging that God has ordained David, not himself to be the next king. Saul was unintentionally doing the same thing when he put his weapons into David's hands.

Of course, Saul didn't know the significance of what he was doing. He didn't know David was ordained by God to replace him and that his very actions were unwittingly affirming David as the next king. All Saul knew was he really liked David and he really trusts David. Saul likes David so much, look what happens.

And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." 1 Samuel 16:22 (ESV)

David goes from a part-time job to a full-time job working for the king as his personal musician! God has a strange way of working things out, doesn't he?

And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him. 1 Samuel 16:23 (ESV)

The only way Saul could be restored to sanity would have been through repentance. Since he wouldn't repent, the only way he could find temporary relief was when the man with the Holy Spirit played music for him when he was tormented by an evil spirit.

I can't help but think that these days made a powerful impression on David about what happens when someone who has the Holy Spirit loses the Holy Spirit

and faces complete tragedy. David could see up close and personal how dark Saul's life became when God's Holy Spirit left his life.

This is why, years later after David was established as king, and he sinned grievously by murdering a man named Uriah after having an adulterous affair with Uriah's wife, David was concerned that God would treat him the same way he treated Saul. Let me show you what was one of David's greatest fears at that time.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Psalm 51:11 (ESV)

Having the Holy Spirit in our life is the best gift we can receive. The absence of the Holy Spirit is one of life's greatest tragedies. Since the Holy Spirit is so important, how do we get the Holy Spirit in our life today?

How does the Holy Spirit work in the New Testament?

The answer is Jesus.

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 today you have repented of your sin and trusted in Jesus as your savior and king, God sent the Holy Spirit into your life, just like he did in David's life. He sends the Holy Spirit into our life permanently like David, not temporarily like Saul.

Once the Holy Spirit comes into our life he teaches us when we read God's Word. He shows us our sins so we can repent plus he gives us the strength we do not have to obey God's Word. The Bible tells us we need to decide every day to follow the Holy Spirit's leadership in our life.

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

What does it mean to walk by the Spirit? It means to make decisions in our life according to God's Word and the Holy Spirit's guidance. When we make those decisions, sometimes it is hard to turn away from sin but the good news is God's Holy Spirit provides us with the help and strength we don't have to obey the God we love.

Today, if you don't know Jesus, I ask that as I close you would join me in confessing your sin to God and trusting in Jesus to save you from your sin. If you do that, the Holy Spirit will rush into your life just like David. Like David, there may not be an observable difference on the outside of your life but there will be an observable difference coming from the inside of your life as God's Holy Spirit works in your heart and through your life.

The absence of the Holy Spirit, which is what happened to Saul, is the worst thing that can happen to anyone. The presence of the Holy Spirit, which is what happened to David, is the best thing that happened to anyone.

Once we have the Holy Spirit, since the Holy Spirit is such a precious gift, let us walk in step with the Holy Spirit's leadership in our lives.



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