

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

June 12, 2022

- Summer [Interns](#)
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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)

How did the Holy Spirit work in the Old Testament?

- God used his Holy Spirit to empower people for God-given tasks of [leadership](#) to [save](#) His people.
- The Holy Spirit and [Samson](#)

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)

- The Holy Spirit and [Saul](#)

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)

"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 Holy Spirit and [David](#)

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

There are time gaps in this chapter.

- There is a time gap between the first and second half of 1 Samuel 16.
- 1 Samuel 17 most likely came before the second part of 1 Samuel 16.

The Problem For Saul

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

- The spiritual area of our life has significant influence over the practical areas of our life.
- Did Saul lose his salvation when he lost the Holy Spirit?
 - Saul was lacking obedience.

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

- Saul was missing repentance.

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV)
- The absence of the Holy Spirit is one of the worst things that can happen in our life. The presence of the Holy Spirit is one of the best things that can happen in our life.

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)

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

- Did God send an evil spirit to torment Saul?
 - The devil is God's devil. He can do no more than God allows. God uses him for his good purposes.
 - Saul's torment was a prelude to just eternal torment in the lake of fire for all who disobey God.

...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)

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)

- Saul's servants were looking for a medical solution to a spiritual problem.

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)

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)

- This was not luck. God ordered these meetings for his good purposes.

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

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

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

- God has a sense of humor. Watch for the irony.

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)

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

- God was training David about kingship and what he wanted to avoid.

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

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

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)

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 king who was in torment because he lost the Holy Spirit could only find comfort in the presence of the secretly anointed king who possessed the Holy Spirit.

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

How does the Holy Spirit work in the New Testament?

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)

- The Holy Spirit comes on us permanently (like David) when we repent and trust in Jesus.

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

- We are to make choices in line with Holy Spirit knowing the Holy Spirit will help us please God.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Do you agree with this statement? "One of the worst things that can happen in a person's life is the absence of the Holy Spirit. One of the best things that can happen in a person's life is the presence of the Holy Spirit." How does that change the way you view Jesus?
2. How has the Holy Spirit changed your life? Did the Holy Spirit's change your life dramatically or gradually?
3. The Holy Spirit parted from Saul on account of his sin. Can a genuine believer lose the Holy Spirit? If a genuine believer can not lose the Holy Spirit, what may happen in their life if they persist in sin? See Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, Hebrews 12:6.
4. What power does God have over evil spirits? How does he use them? See Judges 9:23, 1 Kings 22:20-23, 1 Chronicles 21:1, 1 Corinthians 5:5.
5. Saul's servants tried to use music as medicine to mask a spiritual problem. What are some good uses of music today? See Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19-20.
6. One of our 5-Year vision points is, "We embrace change to reach people with Jesus" In what ways are you thankful for the church changing over the last 25 years?
7. Take some time to share stories of how you have seen God at work by his Holy Spirit changing your life or the lives of others. Celebrate the transforming power of God's Holy Spirit in your life.