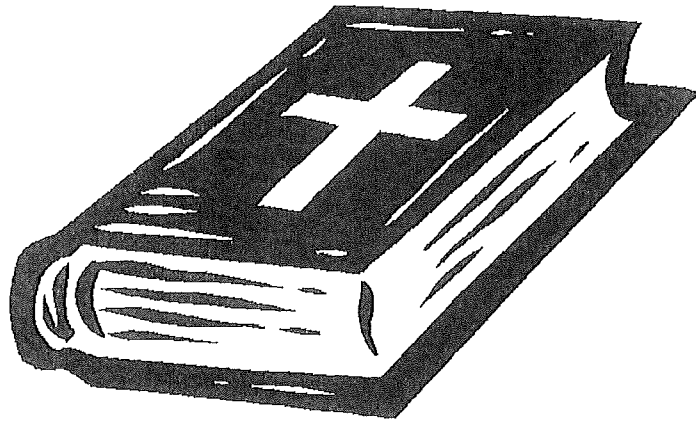


# **THE LEADER'S PROMISES**

**(From The Life Of Saul)**



## **Discover From Saul**

- ◆ Promises To Trust In
- ◆ Principles To Live By
- ◆ Perils To Watch For

***“And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee; and thou shalt be turned into another man.” (I Samuel 10:6)***

***“But the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit troubled him.” (I Samuel 16:14)***

Bill Kirk

## INTRODUCTION

The life of King Saul is both an encouragement and a warning to me. It is a story of victory then defeat, a clear illustration of how we can lose our character, power, crown and our life.

**Fact:** Saul's story begins with Israel's cry for a king:

**Fact:** "Make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (I Samuel 8:5)

Your story begins with a call from God and the people that you now pastor.

**Question:** Why did Israel cry out for a king?

**Answer:** Three reasons clearly stand out:

- #1. **Division:** "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6; 21:25)
  - A. Israel was a loosely organized confederation of tribes.
  - B. Israel needed to be united to become a strong nation.
- #2. **Danger:** "And when ye saw that Nahash, the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me (Samuel), nay, but a king shall reign over us". (I Samuel 12:12)
  - A. The enemy (Ammonites) was about to attack.
  - B. The loosely group of tribes were not organized or prepared to fight against a well prepared army.
- #3. **Defilement:** "Samuel made his sons judge over Israel, and they walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes and perverted judgment". (I Sam .8:1-3)
  - A. Leadership decay took over.
  - B. Samuel's sons accepted bribes and were serving for the purpose of making money.

**Ministry Is When I Empty Myself to Enrich Others**  
**Merchandizing Is When I Empty Others To Enrich Myself**

### Saul Looks So Promising (I Samuel 9)

1. He was from a leading family (the tribe of Benjamin) (9:1)
2. He was physically strong and attractive (9:2)
3. He was obedient to his father Kish (9:3,4)
4. He was submitted to delegated authority (9:5)
5. He was teachable (willing to visit Samuel at the advice of his servant) (9:6-10)

#### **I. Promises For The Pastor To Trust In (I Samuel 10)**

- A. In I Samuel 9 God calls Saul.
- B. In I Samuel 10 God promises to equip Saul for his ministry.
  - ◆ God has called you to your (His) work at such a time as this.
  - ◆ And, God gives you great assurance and encouragement (for pastoring, for trying times, for those times when He must supernaturally provide).

#### **Remember**

Saul was God's choice to be the new king. Saul would be embarking on a new adventure. Saul now receives great assurance from God of supernatural assistance in the vineyard.

### **Promises For You To Trust In**

#### **#1. God Will Solve Your Most Difficult Problems**

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“When thou art departed from me today, you’ll find two men who will say to you, the asses which you went to seek after are found” (10:2)

- A. After Saul was called and anointed, Saul was assured that the asses had been found and that he could stop worrying!
- B. God was saying to Saul, “The problems or challenges you’ll face in leadership as king, I will solve them if you trust Me”.

**Fact:** Pastor, if you are in the will of God and worried or anxious about something, remember this: God will solve your problems, he knows where you live and what you need!

“Commit your work unto the Lord and your plans will succeed”. (Proverbs 16:3)

## #2. God Will Supply Your Every Need

“Then shalt thou go on forward from thence and you will meet three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, one carrying three loaves of bread, and one carrying a bottle of wine which thou shalt receive of their hands”. (10:3,4)

- A. As the new king Saul would need all kinds of provision.
- B. Samuel assures Pastor Saul, that God would supply exactly what he needed.

**Fact:** Wherever you are today pastor, wherever; The same God who has called you will equip you and provide you with what you need to do His will.

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that you always have all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work”. (II Corinthians 9:8)

## #3. God Will Be Your Source Of Strength

“The Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee and turn you into another man”. (10:6)

- A. Samuel told Saul that he (Saul) would come to the hill of God and meet some prophets.
- B. Saul was also told, that God’s Spirit would come upon him and transform this farmer into a leader.
- C. When Saul did meet these prophets, the Spirit of God came upon him and changed him by the anointing of God.

**Fact:** God has promised you pastor, that He would supply the strength and power needed to do His will.

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength”. (Isaiah 40:31)

“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man”. (Ephesians 3:16)

**His Presence Makes The Difference**  
**“For God Is With Thee” (I Samuel 10:7)**

## #4. God Will Provide The Laborers You Need

“And Saul went home to Gibeah, and thence went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched”. (10:26)

- A. As the new king, Saul would need assistants, servants, soldiers, laborers, etc.
- B. God was saying to Saul here, “Don’t fret, I will provide the people along side of you to see My work completed”.

**I Confess:** This was not easy to believe in Syracuse when one teenager showed up for our first meeting. (Pg. 2 of 8)

**I Confess:** This was not easy to believe in Cooperstown, when six local people showed up for our first Sunday morning service.

**Fact:** God will, send and provide the right people along side of you to do His will.

(The teachers, ushers, board members, intercessors, givers, etc. are on the way)

“Though the vision tarry, wait for it, for it will surely come and not be overdue one single day”.  
(Habakkuk 2:3)

### **Pastor, Be Encouraged!**

- #1. God will solve your mountain size problems. #3. God will be your source of spiritual power.  
#2. God will supply exactly what you need. #4. God will provide the laborers to build His church.

**“Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it” (I Thessalonians 5:24)**

## **II. Principles For The Pastor To Live By (I Samuel 11,12)**

### **Introduction**

Life went on as usual for Saul at his father’s farm in Gibeah. Then one day, the enemy approached and Israel faced a crisis. Saul would rise to face his first challenge in the battlefield: “What aileth the people that they weep? And Saul slew the Ammonites so that two of them were not left together”. (I Samuel 11:5,11)

### **Principles Of Saul’s Victory**

#### **#1. The Anointing Of The Holy Spirit**

“And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings” (11:6)

- A. Saul could not fight the battle of the Lord in his own strength.
- B. Saul received a holy endowment which made him a new man.

**Application:** So must we receive power from on high to do the work of God. Flesh is weak at best; only work born out of communion, union and fellowship will have God’s desired results.

#### **#2. The Faith To Move Forward**

“Saul put the people in three companies, and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites”. (11:11)

- A. Saul issued a challenge of faith when the Ammonites attempted to intimidate him.
- B. God accomplished a great victory and honored Saul’s faith to move forward.

**Application:** So God will honor your faith in His Power to do what you cannot do yourself.

#### **#3. The “Team Player” Mentality**

“Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen”. (11:7)

- A. Saul refused to be a lone ranger.
- B. Saul openly joined himself with Samuel, a man of prayer.

**Application:** Loners are losers; it’s the “team player” pastor that will see character development through accountability and submission.

“As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man” (Or, one minister will sharpen another minister) (Proverbs 27:19)

#### **#4. The Principle Of “Delayed Response”**

“And the people said unto Samuel, who is he that said, shall Saul reign over us? Bring the men that we may put them to death”. (11:12)

**Fact:** Saul had his critics after his installation service as pastor (king).

**Fact:** So, you will have your critics as you follow the will of God.

“But the children of Belial said, How shall this man save us? And they despised him and brought him no presents. But Saul held his peace” (10:26,27)

- A. Some folks created problems for Saul.
- B. These critics attempted to provoke Saul.
- C. Those who despised delegated authority resented their new pastor.

- ◆ But Saul kept his mouth shut
- ◆ Saul looked at the whole picture
- ◆ Saul stayed focused on God
- ◆ Saul practiced the principle of “Delayed Response”

### **This Really Works** (7 Laws To Live By)

1. “Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work” (Proverbs 24:29)
2. “Say not thou, I will recompense evil, but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee”(Prov. 20:22)
3. “The discretion of a man deferreth his anger, and it is his glory to pass over a transgression” (Proverbs 19:11)
4. “He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding, but he that is hasty of Spirit exalteth folly” (Proverbs 14:29)
5. “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him” (Proverbs 26:4)
6. “Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbor hath put thee to shame” (Proverbs 25:8)
7. “As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come” (or, unjustified criticism can do you no harm). (Proverbs 26:2)

### **#5. The Choice to Forgive Unconditionally**

“And Saul said, there shall not a man be put to death this day” (I Samuel 11:13)

- A. Saul’s supporters said, “Let’s get rid of those in the camp (church) who don’t want Saul to be king” (11:12)
- B. But Saul refused to retaliate because he had forgiven his offenders when offended.  
(Saul didn’t nurse his offence or curse his offenders, he dispersed his offence to God)

**Remember Pastor:** You are not great because of the criticisms you can conjecture; you are great because of the weaknesses you can forgive!

### **Illustration**

On August 8, 1974, Richard Nixon resigned in the threat of impeachment. On August 9, 1974, he addressed his White House Staff (200) people in the east wing of the White House for the last time. His final words and last sentence of his speech were these:

“Remember, others may hate you but they never win, unless you hate them back”

### **Samuel’s Great Sermon** (I Samuel 12)

#### 1. Samuel Rehearses His Integrity (Vs. 1-5)

“And they said, “Thou hast not defrauded us nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken aught of any man’s hand...ye have not found aught in my hand”. (vs. 4,5)

#### II. Samuel Rehearses God’s Faithfulness (Vs. 6-11)

“And Samuel said unto the people, it is the Lord that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt” (v. 6) (Pg. 4 of 8)

### III. Samuel Rehearses A Solemn Warning (Vs. 12-25)

“But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you as it was against your fathers” (V. 15)

“Turn ye not aside, for then should ye go after vain things which cannot profit nor deliver, for they are vain” (V. 21)

#### Samuel Pleads To Us...

- A. To fear the Lord (v. 14)      C. To obey the Lord (v. 14)      E. To consider the Lord (v. 24)  
B. To serve the Lord (v. 14)      D. To believe the Lord (v. 16)

### Samuel Is Old And Gray Headed (But a man of prayer)

“Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you” (12:23)

#### So Far, So Good (Thus far, Saul has seen victory in leadership)

1. He defeated the Ammonites and gained respect.
  2. He had a great public coronation in Gilgal.
  3. He heard Samuel’s sermon calling him to be faithful.
  4. He had God’s anointing and faith to move forward.
  5. He was a team player with Samuel.
  6. He practiced the principle of “Delayed Response”.
  7. He chose to forgive his critics from Belial.
- ◆ But now he commits an offense that costs him the kingdom.
  - ◆ Now he loses his crown, his ministry, his blessing and his life.
  - ◆ Now he yields to the “perils” and becomes a warning to us all...

### III. Perils Of The Pastor To Watch For (I Samuel 13-15) (Or) “How Saul Lost It All”

“Then came the Word of the Lord unto Samuel saying, it repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: For he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments... Because thou hast rejected the Word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king”. (I Samuel 15:10,11,23)

#### Introduction

Samuel has just preached a great sermon, exhorting Saul to be faithful to God. Saul had defeated the Ammonites! Saul had established himself as Israel’s first king! Saul had just experienced a great public coronation at Gilgal. Saul looked victorious and well on his way; but oh the snare of “going on momentum”.

“In I Samuel 13, the Philistines come on the scene and Saul has to deal with them. It is here that we see the downward spiral. It is here that Saul becomes impatient and offers the sacrifice before Samuel arrives. It is here that Saul’s disobedience cost him the kingdom.

**Question:** What were the perils that destroyed Saul? (The reasons for his fall?)

## Perils That Destroy

### Peril #1: Neglecting Prayer In The Secret Place

"I have not made supplication unto the Lord; I forced myself therefore and offered a burnt offering" (I Samuel 13:12)

Question: What happens when your hands come down in the place of prayer?

Answer: The enemies on the outside become bigger than God on your inside.

- ◆ Saul became afraid when the Philistines came to do battle. (I Samuel 13:6)
- ◆ Saul became impatient and offered the sacrifice before Samuel arrived. (I Samuel 13:8,9)
- ◆ Saul became anxious when he saw the people scatter from him. (I Samuel 13:11)

Why the slide? Because Saul "failed to make supplication unto the Lord, (meaning he failed to entreat the face of God)" (v. 12)

**"Watch And Pray That You Enter Not Into Temptation" (Mathew 26:41)**

### Peril #2: Failure To Keep The Weeds Out

"Because I saw that the people were scattered from Me, and that you (Samuel) camest not within the days appointed...I forced myself therefore" (I Samuel 13:11,12)

Question: How does Saul answer Samuel's question in (13:11) "What have you done?"

Answer: Saul makes excuses, blames Samuel for his impatience, blames the people for being scattered and refuses to accept responsibility for his actions.

- ◆ Saul begins to cover up!
- ◆ Saul reveals a double mindedness!
- ◆ Saul attempts to be dishonest!
- ◆ Saul exposes a deceitful heart!

Why the cover up? Because Saul has allowed the little weeds to crowd his heart.

**"The Little Foxes Spoil The Vine" (Song of Solomon 2:15)**

### Peril #3: Wanting Glory That Belongs To God

"And the men of Israel were distressed that day; for Saul had adjured the people, saying, cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies". (I Samuel 14:24)

Question: What is Saul's motive as he hinders the battle Jonathan is fighting?

Answer: Saul's motive is vengeance and pride, not the glory of God.

- ◆ When Jonathan spoke about the battle, God was magnified:

"The Lord will work for us; for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few". (I Samuel 14:6)

- ◆ Jonathan gave God the Glory!
- ◆ Saul tried to glorify himself!

Question: Why would God want to answer our prayers if we take the credit for what He does?  
"I am the Lord, that is my Name, and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" (Isaiah 42:8)

### Peril #4: Forgetting That Partial Victory Spells Defeat

“Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not... But Saul spared Agag and the best of the sheep, and would not utterly destroy them” (I Sam. 15:3,9)

“Then came the Word of the Lord unto Samuel saying, it repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king, for he is turned back from following me”. (I Samuel 15:11)

**Question:** What did God tell Saul to do?

**Answer:** Utterly destroy the Amalekites, take no booty or spoil and burn everything burnable.

**Question:** What did Saul do?

**Answer:** Saul spared the king of Amalek and spared the best of the spoil.

**Question:** What was the result of partial victory?

**Answer:** ♦ God was angry (v. 11) Samuel was grieved (v. 11) Saul was rejected (v. 23)

### The Amalekites Hated The People Of God

1. They fought with Israel in Rephidim (Exodus 17:8-13)
2. They attacked Israel in Hormah (Numbers 14:43)
3. They joined Moab and ambushed Israel again (Judges 3:13)
4. They joined the Midianites and raided Israel's crops and livestock (Judges 6,7,10)

### **So God Said “Utterly Destroy Them”**

♦ But Saul spared the king and the spoil and had the nerve to lie to Samuel.

♦ And God said this about Saul, “He is turned back from following Me”. (v. 11)

### The Problem?

Whenever we allow something to remain that God says “Get rid of”, we have turned back and forfeited the favor of God.

“But if you will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall come to pass, that those which you let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, thorns in your side, and shall vex you in the land you dwell” (Numbers 33:55)

### **Peril #5: Blaming Others For My Condition**

“And Saul said, they have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep...But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen which should have been utterly destroyed” (I Samuel 15:15,21)

**Question:** “What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears?” (v. 14)

**Answer:** In chapter 13 – Saul blamed Samuel

In chapter 14 – Saul blamed Jonathan

In chapter 15 – Saul blamed the people when he failed to obey God's command and “destroy the Amalekites”

♦ God had re-commissioned Saul in I Samuel 15:1-3 (And given him another chance)

♦ But Saul blamed others for his present condition.

**Fact:** No one else is to blame for what is inside of me.

**Fact:** No one else is to blame for my personal failures.

He that covereth his sin shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy”. (Proverbs 28:13)

### **Peril #6: Replacing Sacrifice For Obedience**

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“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams...Because thou hast rejected thee from being king” (I Samuel 15:22,23)

- ◆ Saul claimed that he had obeyed the Lord, (but God said, “You didn’t obey”)
- ◆ God didn’t want the spoil to be kept for sacrifice.
- ◆ God had said, “Destroy everything of the Amalekites”. (15:18)

**“Obedience Is The Certificate Of Christian Character” (A.W. Tozer)**  
**The Blessing Of Obedience**

1. You will enjoy a great anointing (John 14:21)
2. You will have clearer direction (Matthew 5:8)
3. You will see answered prayer (I John 3:22)
4. You will build a storm proof life (Matthew 7:24-27)

**Peril #7: Desiring Public Reputation Instead Of Personal Character**

“And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Then he said, I have sinned, yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel” (I Samuel 15:24,30)

**Question:** What was Saul’s great concern throughout his career?

**Answer:** “What do people think of me?”

**“Honor Me Now Before The People”**  
**(Why Is This Deadly?)**

1. Because thinking only of your reputation will lead you to cut corners and make excuses.
  2. Because if you live to be praised by people, you will forfeit the fear of God.
- “The fear of man bringeth a snare, but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe”. (Prov. 29:25)

**Conclusion: (Truth To Remember From Saul)**

**Promises For The Pastor To Trust In**

1. God will solve your most difficult problems
2. God will supply your every need
3. God will be your source of strength
4. God will provide the laborers you need

**“Principles” For The Pastor’s Victory”**

1. The anointing of the Holy Spirit
2. The faith to move forward with God
3. The “Team Player” philosophy
4. The principle of “Delayed Response”
5. The choice to forgive unconditionally

**“Perils” Of The Pastor To Watch For**

1. Neglecting prayer in the secret place
2. Failure to keep the weeds out
3. Wanting glory that belongs to God
4. Forgetting that partial victory spells defeat
5. Blaming others for my condition
6. Replacing sacrifice for obedience
7. Desiring public reputation instead of personal character

AMEN  
Bill Kirk, Pastor  
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