

THE PURSUIT

David's Heart for God

Demonic Deception

I Samuel 28

Here is the final sorry story of King Saul. What a pathetic conclusion to his life. We will learn from his disastrous experience of entering the evil spirit world.

- There is a real evil spirit world we are warned to avoid.
Deuteronomy 18:10, 11; Isaiah 8:19; Ephesians 6:10-13; I Peter 5:8

- Any involvement with the evil spirits can bring disaster. I Samuel 28:19, 20
John 10:9, 10; Acts 19:11-16

- We can easily be deceived and misled by an evil spirit. I Samuel 28:11-14
Matthew 7:21-23; 24:24; II Corinthians 11:11-14

The spiritual qualities that makes me susceptible to evil spirits.

1. Emotional fear in the face of my circumstances. I Samuel 28:5

2. A broken spiritual connection with God. I Samuel 28:6
Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 55:6, 7

3. Live a hypocritical life of selective obedience to God's Word. I Samuel 28:7
Deuteronomy 18:10, 11

4. A false repentance of past sins. I Samuel 28:18
I Samuel 15:13-35 (see **digging deeper** for indications of false repentance.)

Digging Deeper in I Samuel 28

Today's passage reveals a spiritually impoverished, pathetic man who once had greatness from our Lord. What a sorry way to end his life.

Remember from these following passages what a great start Saul had in life:

I Samuel 9:2

I Samuel 10:1-16

I Samuel 11:6; 12-15

If a man with that great spiritual start can end up in such failure, this passage should be a warning for all of us on how spiritual ruin can take us down.

Saul did not grasp how far he had fallen in his spiritual life. Now he resorts to a medium for help. A medium was one who called up ghosts of the dead for help.

What do the following passages teach or reveal to you about the evil spirit world?

Deuteronomy 18:10, 11

Isaiah 8:19

Jeremiah 29:8, 9

Ephesians 6:10-13

I Peter 5:8

Acts 19:11-16

What are some current ways you may be influenced or impacted by the evil spirit world?

We may not fully recognize the methods and people who are empowered from the evil spirit world. What do the following passages teach you about their methods and appearances and why are they hard to recognize? As you read these passages, who might be some of these people today?

Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 24:24

II Corinthians 11:11-14

The spiritual qualities that makes me susceptible to evil spirits.

Saul's heart was so corrupted; he was easily influenced and tempted by the evil spirit world. Review the character qualities of his life from the front outline and evaluate if you are susceptible to the same temptation in your life.

Are you living in fear, anxiety, worry over your circumstances?
Fear erases faith. Faith erases fear.

Are you selectively obeying the Bible where it is convenient and justifying any disobedience?

Have you been sorry for sin, but not with a true repentant heart so that you completely turn from that sin. Saul's great downfall is found in **I Samuel 15:13-35**.

Qualities of fake repentance which Saul reveals in I Samuel 15 include:

A rationalization of my sin

An attempt to justify my sin by blaming others or my circumstances

A refusal to take full responsibility for my sin

A sorrow over getting caught but not for my sinful actions or attitudes

A failure to see the evilness of sin

A denial of all consequences for my sin

Samuel said, **"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry."** I Samuel 15:23

Divination is witchcraft and describes Saul's use of the medium. Unconfessed sin opens your heart to the evil spirit world if it is not fully confessed.

Are you guilty of any of these areas? If so, will you fully repent today?

Use these verses to explore areas of your life where Satan will attack and pray for any restoration or correction you need.

1. Battle of sin.

Marriage Immorality:

I Corinthians 7:5 *Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control*

Anger:

Ephesians 4:26, 27 *BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.*

Hypocrisy, deceit, fake, posing:

Acts 5:3 *But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?*

2. Battle of relationships—forgiving another in conflict.

II Corinthians 2:11 *But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

3. Battle of truth—false teachers who mislead my faith.

II Corinthians 11:13-15 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

I Timothy 1:19, 20 *keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered over to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.*

4. Battle of disease—resentment, doubt, concern for no healing.

II Corinthians 12:7 *Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself*

5. Battle of my heart—complacency, anxiety, weariness, apathy, doubt.

I Peter 5:7-9 *casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

6. Battle for salvation for the unsaved.

II Corinthians 4:3, 4 *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*