

God Works Through Flawed People

As we study the closing chapters of 1 Samuel, we read about David's encounter with Nabal and Abigail, Saul's desperate decision to visit a medium, and finally, Saul's tragic death. In these accounts, we see both Saul's and David's imperfections, yet a striking difference in their attitudes toward God. These final chapters reaffirm what the whole book of 1 Samuel has shown us: God is willing and able to work through flawed people, but the condition of our hearts matters greatly.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How do you typically react to correction? Why do you think this is your natural response?
- What do you think "condition of the heart" means?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God Works Through Flawed People](#)

READ [1 Samuel 25-31](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- God corrects David through Abigail. Host Scott Hoezee said, "God, by his Holy Spirit...will do that for us." He also emphasized that we need to be like David and be willing to receive the correction. What helps us cultivate hearts willing to receive and hear God's correction? What gets in the way and makes correction difficult for us?
- In segment 2, host Darrell Delaney described Saul's sinful pattern as "choosing control over surrender." In what ways do believers still struggle with this today?
- Reflecting on Saul's encounter with the medium in Endor, Scott discussed how fear can make someone desperate enough to do things they normally would not consider. Referencing 1 John 4:18, he said, "We have to do our best to turn that fear over to the Lord and not use that fear as an excuse to go against the ways of the Lord like Saul does here." We will experience fear in life. Read 1 John 4:9-19. What is the foundation that this passage identifies that gives us the strength to turn our fear over to the Lord?
- Noting the differences between Saul and David, Darrell said, "God is not looking for flawless people...God is looking for hearts that remain open to him." Yet he also observed that many of us assume spiritual growth means being perfect, being strong, and avoiding mistakes. Does this observation resonate with you? Why or why not?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Leviticus 19:31](#), [1 Kings 19:1-18](#), [Psalm 56](#), [Psalm 13](#), [Romans 8:31-39](#), [Hebrews 2:1](#), [Psalm 51](#)

CONCLUSION

As Scott and Darrell closed their conversation, they identified three points we can draw from studying the conclusion of 1 Samuel:

1. Hidden formation matters
2. Resist the kind of fear that pushes us in bad directions
3. Be teachable and correctable

Close your time of reflection by thanking God for the stories of Saul and David in 1 Samuel. Talk to him about what you've learned and how it has impacted your faith. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help in cultivating the hidden formation of your heart, so that you may recognize his teaching and correction, and for his perfect love to be stronger than any fear in your life.

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