



(1 Samuel 16:14-23) But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me. Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favor in my sight. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him. (KJV)

- I. SAUL [FROM POWERFUL TO PITIFUL] –THE SPIRIT OF GOD'S CONTROL OF OUR LIVES IS ESSENTIAL TO EFFECTIVE MINISTRY.
 - A. LOSING GOD'S CONTROL BRINGS ULTIMATE DEVASTATION
 - B. LOSING GOD'S CONTROL BRINGS VULNERABILITY TO DEPRESSION
 - C. LOSING GOD'S CONTROL BRINGS SPIRITUAL INEFFECTIVENESS

II. DAVID [FROM PASTURE TO PALACE] –AVAILABILITY TO DO GOD'S WORK IS AN ASSUMED PREREQUISITE FOR ALL OF HIS SERVANTS.

A. COMMENDABLE

B. HUMBLE

III. DAVID [FROM QUIET PASTURES TO A CONTEMPTIBLE KING]–
CONTRAST OF CHARACTERS OFTEN PRODUCES RIPE PASTURES
FOR MINISTRY.

Conclusion

- **What is your response to the challenges of life? Your reality?**
- **How do you view the calling of God on your life?**
- **What opportunities in your life are ripe for a leader?**
- **Is there evidence of the Power of God in your life?
--Courage, Commitment, God-ward focus?**