

“Was Saul a Believer?”
1 Samuel 10:1-10
(Preached at Trinity, October 30, 2016)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Chapter 8** Israel cries out for a king. Their true motive was one of lusting after the ways of the other nations.
1 Samuel 8:20 NAU - "that we also may be like all the nations"
2. They were no longer interested in God's covenantal separation, of being separate and distinct from the other nations. God recognized their motive and saw it as a rejection of His covenant.
3. **Chapter 8** ends with God telling Samuel to give them the desire of their heart—give them a king. Samuel dismisses the elders to return to their respective cities. We are left wondering what God would do. But as we entered **Chapter 9** we are immediately introduced to Saul and by the time we reach the end of the chapter we understand that he is the one chosen by God to be Israel's king.
1 Samuel 9:17 NAU - "When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, "Behold, the man of whom I spoke to you! This one shall rule over My people."
4. **Chapter 10** opens with Saul being anointed as Israel's king. The beautiful thing is in spite of Israel's rejection of God as their King, He had not rejected them. They were still His people; His heritage.
5. Saul is anointed by Samuel symbolizing that he had been consecrated or set apart as king. He was given three signs to confirm God's call upon his life.
 1. **Verse 2** – Near the tomb of Rachel Saul would encounter two men who would tell him that the donkeys that he searched for had been found and his father was now concerned because of his absence.
 2. **Verses 3-4** – Saul would meet three men going up to worship God in Bethel carrying three goats, three loaves of bread and a jug of wine. Greeting Saul, they would give him these offerings signifying his anointed status. Saul's acceptance of them was his acknowledgement of his anointing as king.
 3. **Verses 5-10** - The third sign is the sign that demands careful consideration. Approaching the hill of God near the Philistine garrison, Saul would be met by a group of prophets prophesying.
 - a. The Spirit of God would come upon Saul mightily and he too would prophesy.
1 Samuel 10:6 NAU - "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them"
 - b. Then the text tells us that Saul would be changed into another man.
1 Samuel 10:6 NAU - "you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man."

6. We read in **Verse 9**
1 Samuel 10:9 NAU - "Then it happened when he turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day."
7. As we read these verses wearing our Christian glasses we have to ponder of Saul had been saved. Three things stand out:
- The Holy Spirit came upon him mightily
 - He was changed into another man
 - God changed his heart.
8. Are these things describing regeneration? Saul's life will bear testimony that he was not regenerate.
 The old expression, "All that glitters is not gold" stands before us as a helpful proverb – that which appears shiny on the outside does not always prove to be genuine.
 Shakespeare wrote:
All that glisters is not gold;
Often have you heard that told:
Many a man his life hath sold
But my outside to behold:
*Gilded tombs do worms enfold.*¹
9. A person can shine brightly outwardly for a season. It can imitate the real thing, but cannot stand the test of time.
Hebrews 6:4-6 NAU - "For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,⁶ and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame."
10. Let's look at the difference between these works of grace in Saul's life and the God's grace in the life of a believer.
- I. The Holy Spirit came upon Saul mightily
1 Samuel 10:6 NAU - "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them"
- A. Prior to Pentecost the H.S. entered individuals for a period of time to equip them for a specific task
1. We can see this as people were equipped to prophecy
 - a. **Numbers 11:25 NAU** - "Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed *Him* upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do *it* again."
 - b. **2 Chronicles 15:1 NAU** - "Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded"
 (so that he could prophesy to King Asa)

¹ Act II - Scene VII - Prince of Morocco.

2. The Spirit of God also filled individuals to perform other tasks. Bezaleel was filled with the Holy Spirit to equip him with the skill to make the various elements of the Tabernacle.
Exodus. 31:1-5 NAU - "Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "See, I have called by name Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ "I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship, ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵ and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all *kinds of* craftsmanship."
 3. God put His Spirit upon Saul that Saul might be anointed and empowered to sit as king over Israel
1 Samuel 10:6 NAU - "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man."
1 Samuel 10:9-10 NAU - "Then it happened when he turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day. ¹⁰ When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them."
 - a. God then withdrew His Spirit from Saul and placed Him on David
1 Samuel 16:13-14 NAU - "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. ¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul"
 - b. Matthew Henry – "the Spirit of God came upon him, strongly and suddenly (so the word signifies), but not so as to rest and abide upon him. It came on so as to go off quickly." ²
- B. This is far different from the indwelling Spirit in the New Covenant
1. The Holy Spirit was promised in the OT
Ezekiel 39:29 NAU - "I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD."
Joel 2:28 NAU - "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions."
 2. The OT promises of the Spirit were fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:16-17 NAS - " but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams"

² Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary, Vol. II*, New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, Page 333.

3. The Holy Spirit is unique to the church. He is given as a New Covenant blessing.
4. In the New Covenant the Holy Spirit indwells and fills every believer. His indwelling presence never ends. It is the mark of regeneration.
He has come upon us mightily and abides.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is the power behind God's transforming grace
We are born of the Spirit.
 - b. The Christian has a new nature. The Holy Spirit indwells us working all manner of transforming grace in us. We are truly a new creation.
 - c. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be sent forth to teach us and enable us to understand the truth.
John 14:26 NAS - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

C. The Holy Spirit is the Source of Holiness

Paul speaks of the "fruit of the Spirit" – **Gal. 5:22**

1. The Holy Spirit enlivens the affections of the believer towards God. He enables us to comprehend the love of Christ
Ephesians 3:14-19 NAU - "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."
2. The Holy Spirit would leave Saul and his heart would fester with evil
1 Samuel 16:14 NAU - "Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him."

II. He was changed into another man

1 Samuel 10:6 NAU - "you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man."

- A. This is merely describing the Holy Spirit equipping Saul to be Israel's king
 1. It was a sudden transformation
 - a. Days before Saul was a simple farmer. He had gone searching for missing donkeys. He didn't show any particular leadership capabilities. His servant seemed to be leading him.
 - b. Even after his anointing he seemed desirous of avoiding the task
1 Samuel 10:21-22 NAU - "And Saul the son of Kish was taken; but when they looked for him, he could not be found. Therefore they inquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" So the LORD said, "Behold, he is hiding himself by the baggage."

2. This in no way is describing the powerful change of regeneration
 - a. Saul knew nothing of the holy character of God's transforming grace
 - b. Saul would soon have his kingdom stripped from him and given to another.
- B. The Christian is transformed into another man – his old self is gone and the new man is being renewed day by day
Romans 6:6-11 NAU - "knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

III. God changed his heart

1 Samuel 10:9 NAU - "Then it happened when he turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day."

- A. Again, this is not the grace of regeneration
 1. God gave Saul a heart to lead Israel, to raise an army to fight
1 Samuel 11:6-7 NAU - "Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul mightily when he heard these words, and he became very angry. ⁷ He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent *them* throughout the territory of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen." Then the dread of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out as one man."
 2. This new heart was not a heart of holiness, a heart on fire to follow God.
- B. The heart of regeneration is a heart transformed from death to life
 1. It is a heart that turns to Christ in faith
 2. It is a heart that flees from sin and hungers and thirsts after righteousness
Ezekiel 36:26-27 NAU - "'Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."
 3. William Blaikie – "The real test is a changed will; a will no longer demanding that self be pleased, but that God be pleased; a will yielding up everything to God; a will continually asking what is right and what is true, not what will please me, or what will be a gain to me; a will overpowered by the sense of what is due in nature to the Lord and Judge of all, and of what is due in grace to Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood."³

³ Blaikie, William Garden. (2005). *Expository Lectures on the Book of 1 Samuel* (p. 49). Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books.

Conclusion:

1. The great pressing question upon you is this: Has God given you a new heart? Has He poured out His Spirit upon you mightily?
Has He changed your will? Do you desire to honor Him above all else.
2. If not, the solution is always found in the Gospel. Look to Christ. Trust Him alone. Pray that God will give you a heart to love and worship Him alone.