

Lacking God's Guidance

1 Samuel 28:3-25

1. Failure to Replace vs. 3-7

Although Saul rightly banned all mediums and spiritists from Israel, he failed to replace them with proper replacements that would have allowed him to be supported and nurtured in his relationship with God. As a result, Saul returned to the ways of the world to seek guidance.

When we come to Christ, we begin to stop looking for guidance through the ways of the world. However, if we do not replace our former ways with the ways God has given us to receive guidance for our life (God's Word, Prayer, the Church, the laws written on our heart... etc.), then we will return to our old ways to guide our lives.

2. Failure to Obey vs. 8-25

Saul risked his life to receive guidance from a medium only to be reminded why God had departed from Saul; Saul chose to not obey God. As a result, God kept His Word and removed the kingdom away from Saul and gave it to David.

When we choose to live in rebellion against God, we will not walk in truth and therefore will lack guidance from God. (1 John 1:6-7)

Questions:

- How should we handle moments when it seems like God isn't answering our prayers?

- When we begin living for Jesus Christ, we begin ridding ourselves of things in our lives that are contrary to God's Word. What were the thoughts you needed to stop dwelling on, and the actions you needed to stop doing? Is there anything in your life today that you need to intentionally stop doing?

- We see very clearly in God's Word that we need to rid ourselves of the ways of the world, but if we do not replace it with a genuine commitment to God and begin focusing on the things from above, we will eventually resort back to the ways of the world. (Philippians 4:8-9; Matthew 12:43-45) What does that look like? What steps in your discipleship journey do you need to take to continue to remain committed to the one true God?

- Through reading God's Word and the time you spend in prayer, is God convicting you to do or stop doing something in your life, but you are having trouble to obey? How does one overcome this struggle of resistance towards God, and begin faithfully living according to His Word?