**Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit: Holy Spirit Series # 3 Handout**

**Ephesians 4:30 NIV 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

In the days of Samuel in the Old Testament, the people of Israel demanded a king like the nations around them had. Though it was not the way God would have preferred, God agreed to grant them a king. God told Samuel to anoint Saul son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin to be Israel’s king. The anointing was symbolic of the Holy Spirit coming upon Saul.

**1 Samuel 10:5“After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. 6The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.7Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.**

Transformation is a ministry of God’s Holy Spirit. Saul began well, taking decisive action when Jabesh Gilead was besieged by the Ammonite king Nahash. Saul was mighty in battle and brought many victories against Israel’s enemies, but Saul began to have issues because he was insecure, and this made his faith falter.

**1 Samuel 13:5The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7491c)**] chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven. 6When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. 7Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.**

**Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. 8He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter. 9So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.**

**11“What have you done?” asked Samuel.**

**Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, 12I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”**

**13“You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”**

Saul should have known that with God, the Philistines would not be able to stand against Israel. Saul had been told to wait seven days. But as Saul’s concern and fear grew, he decided to take matters in his own hands and did not trust the Lord wholeheartedly. Saul’s lack of trust and his lack of faith led to Saul becoming rash and offering God incomplete obedience. Incomplete obedience is a very dangerous thing.

**1 Samuel 15:1-3 NIV Samuel said to Saul, “I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. 2This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. 3Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7564a)**] all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’”**

The Lord’s command to Saul was for the complete destruction of the Amalekites and everything they owned. Back in Exodus 17:14, when the Amalekites attacked weary and thirsty Israelites at Massah and Meribah, God said:

**Exodus 17:14Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.”**

**1 Samuel 15:7Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. 8He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. 9But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7570b)**] and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed**

God had declared every Amalekite and all that they owned as cherem. Cherem means that they were cursed by God and devoted to complete destruction. Saul and his men were happy to destroy anything inferior but were not willing to destroy the things they thought valuable.

**1 Samuel 15:10Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11“I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night. 1 Samuel 15:13When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.” 1 Samuel 15:14But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”**

**15Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.” 1 Samuel 15:16“Enough!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.”**

**“Tell me,” Saul replied.**

**17Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.18And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’19Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?”**

**20“But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.21The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.” 1 Samuel 15:22But Samuel replied:**

**“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
    as much as in obeying the Lord?
To obey is better than sacrifice,
    and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
23For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
    and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
    he has rejected you as king.”**

Rebellion and arrogance grieve God. God doesn’t prefer to be worshipped or receive offerings and sacrifices if we are disobeying Him. God values our complete trust and obedience more than anything else we can offer. Worship that comes from disobedience or as a justification for partial obedience is abhorrent to God. It is possible to grieve God’s Holy Spirit, so we are wise to learn from King Saul’s errors and offer God our complete trust and full obedience.