

FRAGMENTS BSA SERIES

# No Going Back

irreversibly propelled forward by Heaven's  
providence into the unfamiliar higher  
spheres of spirit-life & faith challenge



RESOURCE STUDY GUIDE

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No Going Back  
by Norman Enlow, Jr.

Front Cover by HSS Productions  
Freelance Graphic Art by Pixaby.com

Printed in the United States of America

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Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from the standard King James Version of the Bible.

HSS Ministries, LLC

[www.enlow2@helmentsshield.com](mailto:www.enlow2@helmentsshield.com)



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## Paralyzing Faith Challenges

For over a month (forty days) each day he had stood before Israel as a terrifying and looming threat that thoroughly stifled any hope of their progressive advancement.

His recurrent appearances had been an incessantly dreaded aggravation that robbed them of any sense of joy and peace.

His very presence had locked them into a mental holding pattern of anguish and foreboding, tormenting their hearts with thought impressions of immense anxiety and soul-aggravating anguish because of their uncertainty of the outcome of the matter.

Too, are we not often mentally and emotionally assayed by tormenting thoughts regarding the same manner of menacing personality or trying ordeal that (at times) we expect to encounter day after day?

Does not the prolonged absence of meaningful fellowship with the Lord leave us spiritually paralyzed and enslaved by the seemingly impervious perception of in the unbreakable grasp of a mindset up stark unbelief, dreary faithlessness and agonizing despair?

The fearful disposition of Saul and the host of Israel uncomfortably present us with a very familiar portrait that we find ourselves observing again and again.

That is, we see a typically remarkable resemblance of our own self, or our own actions unfolded in the text before

our very eyes. Too, it is a painful experience both to read and hear.

Typically, no one likes to be reminded or mentally re-live the anguish of his or her fears and failures.

However, before we can move forward, we must honestly and rightly "see ourselves," and humbly and penitently confess "that is me!"

In the life of the Christ follower the futile practice of evading avoidance only amounts to repeatedly encountering the same re-surfacing ordeal of trial in our life path until the matter has been thoroughly dealt with.

## GRACE INTERVENTIONS

As described in the assessment of national crisis detailed above, the prevailing conditions of publicly visible, pervasive dread and inner misery had persisted for 40 days; that is, until the grace blessing of God, again, intervened to blow the relieving and revitalizing Spirit-winds of divine providence in their direction, which materialized with the simple arrival of the youngest son of Jesse the Bethlehemite on the scene.

This was the public scene into which David was suddenly thrust, when humbly submitted to the instructions from his father. He had that following this simple course would abruptly lead him into this new hazardous life-sphere of faith challenge.

However, this is exactly where the true hands of divine providence had intended him to be.

Then too, unknown to either party, the Lord had so purposed to again to unexpectedly, publicly manifest His magnificent glory and awesome power of supernatural deliverance from the contending rivals of spiritual darkness

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through the profoundly simple (yet mightily powerful) transactions of faith that would occur on this particular day.

Moreover, under the guidance of His direct oversight, His covenant, redemptive purposes would be irreversibly advanced both for His people (the nation); and in the lives of the human agents of this era that He showcased in the pages of inspired sacred history for the benefit of future “redeemed” generations.



## LESSON ONE

### SOURCE TEXT

1 Samuel 17:48-51; 2 Corinthians 10:4 (KJV)

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**1 Samuel 17:48** And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

**49** And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

**50** So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

**51** Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

**2 Corinthians 10:4** For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.

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### APPLICATION POINT

As he dutifully performed his appoint errand David was wholly unaware that he was headed to the straightway to frontlines of spiritual combat; but God knew that (over the course of time) he had been meticulously prepared for this specific moment.

## With a Sling & a Stone

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**FOCUS TEXT:** This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. **1 Samuel 17:46 (KJV)**

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We are reminded that God's methods run contrary to those we employ. The main text notes, "**prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him.**"

This is the pattern of God's way, simple but profound and powerful.

Despite Israel's inability to do what needed to be done, namely prevail over their adversary, by the providential grace of divine intervention, the magnificent blessings of heavenly hope materialized on that particular day through the actions of an unknown young lad.

He was one that had unexpectedly emerged from the domain of obscurity, Through the routine actions of his father, the Lord has moved him from the common background of life onto the center stage of spiritual affairs.

As he dutifully performed his appoint errand David was wholly unaware that he was headed to the straightway to frontlines of spiritual combat; but God knew that (over the course of time) he had been meticulously prepared for this specific moment.

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Moreover, now was time for him to be hastily brought into the spotlight.

Specifically, Sovereign wisdom determined that the time had arrived to bring this shameful and embarrassing matter to a close, and the honor of Heaven to be restored.

Consequentially, from Israel's perspective this intensely dreadful episode would now be over.

Within moments an entire reversal of events began to transpire. The narrative described in **verses 51b-52a**, "**And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines.**"

Does not the nature of this wonderful turnabout of events bear the handprint of the manner of divine outworking repeatedly documented throughout the magnificent Word of the Record.

What appears to be unequivocal and certain defeat from the human perspective does not prove to be the ultimate result when controlled by the hands of the Sovereign Almighty.

That is why the seasoned Apostle admonished us in **1 Peter 5:7** not to live in doubt or fear but directs us: "**Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**"

### David Prevailed

The declaration bears repeating over and over; and over again. By the grace and the strength of God, "David prevailed." In response to the boisterous taunts of the towering Philistine challenger David had unwaveringly replied in **1 Samuel 17:45b-47**: "**Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come**

## WITH A SLING & A STONE

to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

**"This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.**

**"And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."**

From God's perspective it is to be expected that our name should replace David's in that magnificent decree. Today, for us, it should read, "           **prevailed!**"

Again, obviously, not through our own strength; nor for our own glory; but to the glory of the Lord.

Again, stressing the primary objective David declared in verse 47, **"And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle *is* the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands."**

The Lord had orchestrated this situation for this very purpose. The objected was to teach both Israel and the Philistine armies that **"salvation is of the Lord."**

Through the Word of God and the "stirring" of the Holy Spirit the Lord Jesus would have us be reminded, **in John 15:5b: "for without me ye can do nothing."**

Lest we forget He particularly clarifies the point for us in the Word record, **"I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."**

## LESSON ONE

Why were the armies of Israel unable to defeat their foe? The answer is the same reason why neither are we able to overcome ours.

### Faithful Determination

When we are determined to “live by faith” the environment of conflict and challenge is the very sphere we should expect to reside in.

It is true that the training domain of the Shepherd’s pasture or the Shepherd’s desert dwelling is an essential domain where we must spend sufficient time to learn the humbling lessons of “brokenness” and reliant dependence of God.

But, to be sure, the day of divine providence will arrive when we will be directed to employ the methods learned during our season of training one last time, then be summoned into the “larger” sphere of service and accountability.

When we have dutifully proven that we have learned to “walk by faith” (a reality authenticated by test and trial) then we will fully discover that we can no longer reside in the familiar surroundings of the Shepherd’s haven, nor settle for merely knowing how to skillfully utilize only the Shepherd’s weapons.

For this caliber of faithful servant, the time eventually arrives when the “Shepherd-servant” must be taught not only to know how to maneuver freely in the unconstrained attire of the Shepherd’s wardrobe, but also how to gracefully and nimbly maneuver in the soldier’s armor.

The time comes when the “Shepherd-servant” must add to his knowledge of skillful use of stone and sling by learning the essential mastery of the swordsman’s skill.

## WITH A SLING & A STONE

We must follow the outline path of servant and service development highlighted in **2 Peter 1:5-7** that mandates we "add to."

The instruction of the words of the text commands us: **"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;**

**"And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**

**"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

## LESSON TWO

### SOURCE TEXT

1 Samuel 17:55-58; 18:1-2 (KJV)

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**1 Samuel 17:55** And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.

**56** And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the stripling is.

**57** And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

**58** And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.

**1 Samuel 18:1** And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

**2** And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

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### APPLICATION POINT

It is only after we have satisfactorily pass through the faith refining fires of purging (of self-pursuits) and purification (from worldly entanglements) as described in the Word of God) that we “become” or are made fit for the “next level” of spiritual service.

# No Going Back

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**FOCUS TEXT:** And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. **1 Samuel 18:2 (KJV)**

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Herein is set forth the true fact regarding the source of victory in the Christian life.

There should never be any doubt with regards to it. God alone is our source of victory. It is the strength of His favor alone that propels us forward.

Upon clearly recognizing the Lord's mighty hand upon the life of David, the inspired narration reports to us that **"he took David and would let him go no more home to his father's house."**

In other words, he was permanently drafted and taken to join the nation's military forces.

Now obviously at this stage clearly David was not a trained warrior; however, it was also fully recognized that the greater qualifying requirement was the equalizing conditions of one's alliance with the heavenly host of the Almighty.

Now to be absolutely sure, it was the case that Saul perceived the presence of the latent spiritual potential that resided in David's heart; nor the fact that he was destined to take his place as the nation's new chief executive officer.

But rather, his motivating interests were purely natural and self-promoting.

In the aftermath of his battle with Goliath, David had achieved instant notoriety and celebrity, and Saul merely sought



## LESSON TWO

opportunity to stand in that circle of popularity by association as well.

However, the guiding hands of divine providence had an entirely different purpose in view.

### Weaned from the Past

David was no longer permitted to return home because he needed to be trained in the ways of royal administration and in formalities of the protocols of palace life.

This would not have occurred if he had remained in the sphere of former domestic affairs.

A clean break was needed; but unquestionably it also inherently involved a significant measure of trauma, which is always associated with the experience of dramatic change.

Yet, as is always the case, the Lord was with him at every step along the way. And made complete accommodation for this key transition by intricately linking his life circle with that of the King's son, Jonathan.

As in the case with each of us, David had to incrementally move forward along the way of faith until he developed to the level expected for his divine appointment.

There was no means of "fast-tracking" or short cutting the process for him, nor across the span of distant centuries has the divine approach changed for us either.

### Providential Elevations

Purposely, the development stage of preparation and progressive transformation are designed to primarily introduce us to the elements of faith challenge that will be associated with

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the prevailing “next level” situational setting wherein we are about to be placed.

Moreover, we should also acknowledge, accept, and embrace the enduring conditions that will become the daily functioning “new normal” that we must become accustomed to. At this point any option of backtracking to a lesser status is completely irreversible.

Alluding to this practical transitional reality, we learn from the details pertaining to the example of David’s elevation to royal palace as reported in **1 Samuel 18:5a**, **“And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely.”**

In other words, because of David had proved (by his victorious encounter with Goliath) that his level of usefulness and faith potential was now much more immense (far beyond the level of service once rendered in his former sphere), he was ready to be moved forward.

And too, we can be sure that it is only after we have satisfactorily pass through the faith refining fires of purging (of self-pursuits) and purification (from worldly entanglements) as described in the Word of God) that we “become” or are made fit for the “next level” of spiritual service.

## SOURCE TEXT

1 Samuel 18:3-5; Proverbs. 18:24; Hebrews  
10:24 (KJV)

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**1 Samuel 18:3** Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

**4** And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

**5** And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

**Proverbs 18:24** A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

**Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.

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## APPLICATION POINT

By the grace of God, David was formally introduced into his new sphere of faith life by Jonathan, who immediately began the process of training him for the new role that he had been elevated to. We too, can also be sure that Lord will provide us with kindred spirit whose purpose is to guide us into the sphere of “newness” to which we have been called.

# Kindred Friendship & Mentorship

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**FOCUS TEXT:** Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

**Romans 12:10 (KJV)**

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It was unquestionably true that Jonathan had perceived that there was a depth of immense value to the friendship that he had instantly established with David.

In fact, their bond of fellowship became of so strong between them that Scripture repeatedly showcases it before our view; then, placed the capstone seal upon by reporting in **verse 3**, “**Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.**”

In fact, **Proverbs 18:24b** highlights the caliber of their kindred association thus, “**and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.**”

Thus, we can rightly conclude that each of them equally shared the same inspiring faith signature characteristics, namely:

- 1) devotion to the Lord; boldness.
- 2) a heart for service.
- 3) an enduring love for the glory of God, as well as the people of God).

Jonathan’s action fully reflected the inspired exhortation of **Hebrews 10:24** that commanded us: “**And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.**”

## SPIRITUAL HAZARDS IN HIGH PLACES

Moreover, they also were similar to the actions of Barnabas toward Saul (Paul) in the Church age, whose brotherly love and mentoring efforts were detailed in **Acts 11:25-26a**, describing: **“Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:**

**“And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people.”**

Too, in **Romans 12:10** every generation of Christ followers are duly admonished to: **“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”**

Herein we (Christ followers) are shown examples of the pattern of brotherly love that we should increasingly demonstrate toward each other, and how we aid each other in rendering our mutual service to the Lord in advancing His Kingdom purposes.

Furthermore, by the grace of God, David was formally introduced into his new sphere of faith life by Jonathan, who immediately began the process of training him for the new role that he had been elevated to.

### A Time to Learn

The new position that David occupied required that he learn the use of greater weapons of warfare (i.e., the sword and the bow) and that he be formally taught the standard principles and practices of field combat that would make him to be a more effective soldier and enable him to successfully contend on the battlefield.

### LESSON THREE

In addition to enhancing his battlefield skills, it became immensely important that David learn how to conduct himself in the formal environment of the royal court.

Understandably, David had no clue how basic activity was conducted in this new environment given he was only familiar with the common solitary affairs of pastoral life, as he fulfilled his responsibilities and duties of tending to his father's sheep herds (**1 Sam. 10:11**).

Now it was true that David had been enlisted and brought into the royal palace on a number of occasions before, when it became necessary to address Saul's unpredictable episodes of divinely sanctioned, punitive, demonically imposed attacks of affliction (**1 Sam. 16:15-18**).

The sheer importance of that former role was identified in **verse 16**, where the inspired narrator re-accounted: "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."

Yet, in those instances his role was merely to provide an immediate service; then he returned to the normal routine of daily life. He never entertained any remote notion that one day that would become the new sphere of life affairs for him.

Then too, he was already fully content with the circumstances of this present life matters because they revolved around his devotional fellowship with the Most High.

Recall, in **Psalms 23**, he gladly penned: "**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

## SPIRITUAL HAZARDS IN HIGH PLACES

**“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”**

And although clearly the external particulars of life affairs had changed drastically, it became time for him to draw upon those spirit-life lessons from the past and expand upon; glean from; and perceive them from the perspective of enhanced spiritual vision that he would gain through the new ordeals of faith challenge that lied in this faith path.

## LESSON FOUR

### SOURCE TEXT

1 Sam.18:5; Ps. 78:70-71; 1 Chron. 11:1-2 (KJV)

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**1 Samuel 18:5** And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

**Psalms 78:70** He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:

**71** From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.

**1 Chronicles 11:1** Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

**2** And moreover in time past, even when Saul was king, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the Lord thy God said unto thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be ruler over my people Israel.

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### APPLICATION POINT

From these initial encounters and experience, the Lord promptly exposed David to the new sphere of stewardship life that he needed to become accustomed to. He was specifically summoned to routinely reside in this circle of "high places." Likewise, we are given exposure to the keynote particulars in the sphere of service wherein we will reside.



# Purposely Propelled Upward

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**FOCUS TEXT:** And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. **1 Samuel 18:5 (KJV)**

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Obviously, albeit on the surface we observe that practically the royal directive that impacted the life of David at this stage originated from human sources; yet the broader view of Scripture provided for us from **Psalms 78:70** insightfully reveals to us the true higher, overriding source by which the guiding hand of divine providence was orchestrating the circle of affairs at this climatic pivotal moment in the nation's history.

In this keynote text the inspired writer reported regarding the greater purposes of the will of God: **“He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds.”**

In other words, indeed, from the inspired record of the historical chronicle the practical outworking of divine purpose transpired physically through the actions of human agents; however, the true initiator of this paramount action was none other than the Most High.

Again, note the emphatic touch points: **“He chose...and took him.”**

Hence, from this observation (and other references), we can rightly conclude that likewise the true direction of the lives of all that have been graciously numbered among the ranks of “the redeemed” will directly align with this amazing practical spirit-life truth principle.

## LESSON FOUR

Hence, as we are told in **Psalms 37:23**: “**The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.**”

Consequently, as we observe from this account, although we are not always consciously aware of the details of His unseen active operations, the guiding hands of divine providence are persistently in motion in the sphere of natural life affairs to accomplish His will both in and through the lives of His servants.

Befittingly, in **Ephesians 2:10** the N.T. era Christ follower has been openly made aware of this fact in the wonderful exhortation that informs us: “**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**”

Again, let us not miss the key emphatic stress point highlighted in the latter segment: “which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Does this not parallel the kindred truth also expressed centuries earlier in **Psalms 78:70-71**.

And although there was a broad time span between the key point of the initiation of that heavenly objective and the actual distant moment of its fulfillment; the corroborating records of the evidence of history proved that the Lord did precisely as He had planned.

### **Abruptly Transitioning into the Unfamiliar**

Referring again to the expansive view of David’s spirit-life profile that is presented in Psalms 78, we are shown that the transition from his former life sphere (among the sheepfolds) into the new and completely different practical life arena (the royal palace) definitively occurred on this occasion.

## PURPOSELY PROPELLED UPWARD

**Verse 18:2** explicitly indicated to us about King Saul's edict: **"and would let him go no more home to his father's house."**

That is, prompt compliance with King's abrupt order resulted in an immediate relocation of his primary residence, and too, in a drastic change in the prior norms of the affairs of his daily life.

And unquestionably, the sudden nature of this transaction was naturally life jolting to David, just as the sudden emergence of life re-shaping events impact our lives as well.

Undoubtedly, in that simple expression we are compelled to envision elements of future prospects that were both expectantly thrilling and cautiously anxious and fearful.

Because in most instances (as we have commonly experienced), "leaving home;" or our familiar surroundings; or the radical disruption of our daily routines and norms; are often quite traumatic and stressful transactions.

Yet, regardless of the sure presence of the inner, powerful emotional shifts that David had to grapple with and learn to tame; because the guiding hands of divine providence had directed him up to this "next level" elevated plain of life challenge; what became more importance was the enabling power (through the Spirit) of his faith-life and its compensating capability to regulate and anchor his confidence in the Lord, amidst this new sphere of more intense spiritual turbulence and soul-debilitating hazards.

Recalling the uplifting word of assurance that the Lord had to give to unusually hesitant heart of Apostle Paul as he began the sanctioned work of ministry in the city of Corinth, **Acts 18:9** reported, **"Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace."**

## LESSON FOUR

And neither would it be wrong to presume that David's heart would also have been uplifted and encouraged as he was "propelled" forward and upward into the new sphere of stewardship service to which the Lord had appointed him.

Likewise, we can also rest assured that when such a pattern of correspondingly kindred life circumstances become plainly evident and consistently and conclusively emerge in our spirit-life sphere, we too can rest equally assured and rely upon the grace measure of the Spirit's endowments that have been given to us to enable us to effectively perform and admirably execute our respective assignment of stewardship service to the glory of the Lord, in the turbulence sphere of formidable faith challenges.

## LESSON FIVE

### SOURCE TEXT

#### 1 Samuel 18:6-11 (KJV)

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**1 Samuel 18:6** And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

**7** And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

**8** And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

**9** And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

**10** And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

**11** And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

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### APPLICATION POINT

Herein we are also taught that when we are rightly elevated up onto the sphere of “next level” spiritual service; there will also await us an associate level of spiritual challenge and opposition that is designed to humble us, and kept us dependently “leaning on His everlasting arm” (His might).

# Spiritual Hazards in High Places

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**FOCUS TEXT:** And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.  
**1 Samuel 18:9 (KJV)**

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After David had been sufficiently trained regarding his new role and duties, in **verse 5a**, Scripture primarily described for us the new sphere of life wherein David operated.

Unquestionably, David had been brought from the familiar sphere of private solitude, seclusion and simplicity, into the completely unfamiliar new bustling domain of the peer public, political and military power, societal complexity and wicked treachery.

He had been brought from the rural sphere of a remote local community; in the vast central metropolis of national affairs.

Hence, he was placed into an environment of drastic change.

Yet too, we must mindfully remember that this dramatic transition transpired by the actions of Sovereign will; and to would be supervised by the guiding hands of providential oversight.

Namely, he reported directly to King Saul regarding his daily duties and tasks.

Initially there were no intermediate agents through whom he worked; but he answered directly to the King. That is, astonishingly the Lord brought him into direct contact with the individual whose office he would occupy.

## LESSON FIVE

In particular the inspired text cited: **“And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war.”**

Thus, in this new highly volatile situational setting (i.e., the royal court), it became immensely important that he knew how to properly, hence, the need for us to observe the critical comment **“and behaved himself wisely.”**

Obviously, this statement pertained both to his inner heart disposition as well as his external actions among his peers.

### An Abrupt Change

This short, yet predictively striking comment in the inspired narrative (**verse 9**) actually marked an important pivotal juncture in the short duration of the early palace life of David.

Unquestionably, we observed that under the direction of divine providence he was thrust into very different circle of life affairs; he had to quickly train to be a professional soldier; he had to quickly learn how to adapt to the broader sphere of activities that transpire in royal circles.

And too, David fully understood that he had to duly maintain his spiritual temperament and devotion to Heaven, despite this whirlwind of transactions that were rapidly transpiring in his life.

But, in addition, because of the promotional praise of public popularity (that was also openly fractional and divisive) rendered by the chorus of singing women during the recent national celebration, now he had to deal with the unstable temperament of a deeply egocentric and emotionally volatile ruler that lived under the chastening hand of divine disfavor.

Without question, the short graphic excerpt accurately telegraphed the fact that the once celebrated and favored young

## SPIRITUAL HAZARDS IN HIGH PLACES

man that the Lord elevated to be a national hero, who then was promptly “taken” into the royal circle by the executive order of the King; had just as quickly become the central object of his ever-looming suspicions and fear regarding his pending Heaven-decreed demotion.

Quickly it became openly obvious that the enabling winds of divine favor was carrying David along the upward path, while the contrary gales of divine wrath were predictably driving Saul in the shipwreck-direction of an appointed day of reckoning for his defiant heart posture toward Heaven.

### Thrust Into the Circle of Dark Circumstances

Without question, in the introductory statement of **verse 10**, our attention abruptly turns to directly focus on this initially bewildering encounter of Saul with what is described as **“an evil spirit from the Lord.”**

Undoubtedly, when we consider the bible truth that declares that our God is purely holy, we must admit that we are compelled to scratch our heads a bit in attempting to determine what is being referred by this puzzling description; namely, **“an evil spirit from the Lord.”**

But that is exactly what the inspired narrator was referring to.

Now, honestly, we need to fully consider the context of the situational setting to get a proper understanding of “how could this be?”

Foremost we should understand that all created beings are subject to comply with the will of God, whether they are numbered from the ranks of those who **“left their first estate” (Jude 1:6)** and have chosen to oppose God; or those who have



## LESSON FIVE

remained loyal to him; and routinely go forth to accomplish their divine commissions throughout the expanse of the universe (**Heb. 1:7**).

If we review the broader details of these supernatural incidents that primarily center around King Saul that are fully explained in **chapters 15-16**, the present encounter would not be as surprising as may have initially thought.

Neither was this particular situational setting one that was new to David, because it was the reason why he was somewhat familiar with the environment of the royal court.

According to Scripture, the real reason behind Saul's spiritual affliction was because of his failure to humbly submit to and earnestly follow the will of God.

And just because a new, popularly, devout and spiritually steady presence (David) had been brought within the inner circle of the royal court did not mean that Heaven's punitive sentence of persistent punishment against Saul would be rescinded.

Here we are taught that just because the Lord chooses to bring us into a new circle of prominent peers does not mean that His dealing towards them will be altered along the path of favor, whereby they may have presumed.

