

Protecting The Anointing On Your Life

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This morning I would like us to look at the subject of “Protecting the Anointing” that is upon our lives. First of all, we must understand that every single one of us as believers has an anointing, as we can see in the scriptures below:

1 John 2:20 “But you have an anointing from the Holy One...”

1 John 2:27 “But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you.”

This anointing that we have is extremely precious and holy, and it is vital for every single one of us to know exactly how to protect the anointing that we have been given.

I am going to use Saul’s life as a biblical example of someone who lost the anointing. Not only did he lose the anointing, but he eventually even got tormented by evil spirits. A study of his life will reveal how he lost the precious gift, position and kingdom that he once held.

1 Samuel 15:10-29 “Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. “So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.” “Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD.” “But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” “And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.” “Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” “So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? “Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ “Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?” “And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. “But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.” “So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.” “Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. “Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.” “But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.” “And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. “So Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, *who is* better than you. “And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He *is* not a man, that He should relent.” “Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.”

Destiny Harvest Centre

Tel: 031 584 6065

Email: email@destiny.co.za

Website: www.destiny.co.za

1.) SAUL WAS DISOBEDIENT TO THE LORD

Saul had a specific charge to eliminate the Amalekites. His failure to do this specific duty caused him to lose the anointing and caused the kingdom to be removed from him.

1 Samuel 15:10-29 ¹⁰ Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹ “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

We have all heard the statement from Pastor Marc: “**Delayed obedience is disobedience**”. As I was thinking of Saul’s disobedience, I thought much of this statement, although Saul never had delayed obedience, but partial obedience. So in the same manner we can say that partial obedience is disobedience as well.

“Partial obedience spells disobedience and in the absence of perfect obedience, our sacrifices are worthless” – **Summarized Bible: Complete Summary of the Old Testament**

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

“The verb “keep” is not imperative, but future – “You will keep”. Those who love Christ will prove their devotion by their obedience.” – **Spirit Filled Life Bible**

“Unquestionably obedience is a high virtue, a soldier quality. To obey belongs, preeminently, to the soldier. It is his first and last lesson, and he must learn how to practice it all the time, without question, uncomplainingly.” – **E.M Bounds**

***We can protect the anointing on our lives by walking in obedience relative to God’s instructions for our life.**

2.) SAUL HAD A BIG HEAD & PRIDE WAS THE CAUSE OF HIS FALL

I am sure we all know the saying: “**Pride comes before a great fall**”. Well, this is exactly what happened to Saul.

1 Samuel 15:12 ¹² So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.”

1 Samuel 15:16-17 ¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” ¹⁷ So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?”

Saul was anointed when he was small in his own eyes. It is vital for us to not become big headed and think of ourselves more highly than what we ought in order to maintain the anointing upon our lives. Saul had forgotten where he had come from and this caused success to go to his head. The Greek scholars explain that when Samuel told Saul to “**Be quiet!**” that Samuel did so in anger because Saul interrupted his speech with a sense of familiarity and nonchalance.

Since a young age, like many of us, I have been taught to never interrupt the conversation while a superior and/or adult is talking to me. This type of an attitude shows severe disrespect, insolence and pride. This is exactly what Saul did to Samuel, and that is why Samuel abruptly told him to “Be quiet!” This clearly shows the level of pride in Saul’s life and how far he has fallen – from a young inferior humble person, unsure even if God can use him, to someone who erected a statue of him and claiming all the glory for the victory.

Saul lost his humility.

Phil 2:3 ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

“To that law (of God) he would be happy who holds fast, and follows it in all humility and order; but he who is lifted up with pride, or money, or honor, or beauty, who has a soul hot with folly, and youth, and insolence, and thinks that he has no need of a guide or ruler, but is able himself to be the guide of others, he, I say, is left deserted of God” – Plato the Greek Philosopher

The word for the Christian virtue of **humility** was not used before the Christian era, and is distinctly an outgrowth of the Gospel... This is because Paul was explaining to the Philippians that they must be lowly in mind (humble). Humility does not mean to be inferior and insecure, but rather to have a mindset that our total dependence must be on God.

Saul displayed the exact opposite by erecting a statue of him. Saul was basically saying that he was the one who obtained the victory and he was the one who “destroyed” the Amalekites. He gave no glory to God for the victory!

When Saul was little in his own sight he was great in the sight of the Lord, but when he became great in his own sight he became little in the sight of the Lord!

Pride was the beginning of the end for Saul!

***We can protect the anointing on our lives by doing our best to continually walk in true humility.**

3.) SAUL’S MOTIVE WAS FINANCES

Saul immediately jumped onto the spoils of his war with the Amalekites and grabbed what he could. This angered the Lord because he had developed an interest in other things and his devotion moved from being focused on God toward ‘things’. Saul’s heart was no longer sold out to the Lord! He had an alternative hidden motive – personal gain!

1 Samuel 15:14-15 ¹⁴ But Samuel said, “What then *is* this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” ¹⁵ And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”

Saul’s motive was not what he could put into the Kingdom, but rather what he could get out of it. Saul was a hireling and not a true servant.

That they might not love war, God had interdicted spoil and plunder, so the war was undertaken merely from a sense of duty, without any hope of enriching themselves by it.

– Adam Clarke Commentary

We can see above that Saul's love has turned from God towards the war it self, simply because his heart was set on the spoils. Saul's entire motive and purpose had moved over from being purely following God's instructions, to what he could get out of the deal for himself.

Matt 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

The above verse was the very first revelation I got out of scripture directly after my salvation. This specific scripture has saved my life more than I can count! I began to apply this verse in every area of my life, despite my circumstances and all the contrary people, voices and opinions in my life. I knew that God said that if I seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, then everything else that is needed to live in this life would be added and given to me. All I had to do was make sure that I kept my focus right. As long as I seek first the Kingdom then **‘things’** will be given to me, but as long as I seek **‘things’** then neither **‘things’** nor the **‘Kingdom’** will be given to me.

If we make the Kingdom of God and His righteousness our first priority, then we shall lack nothing.

*In **Matt 6:33** the word “seeking” of these is the making them the object of supreme choice and pursuit; and the seeking of them “first” is the seeking of them before and above all else. The “all these things” which shall in that case be added to us are just the “all these things” which the last words of **Mt 6:32** assured us “our heavenly Father knoweth that we have need of”; that is, all we require for the present life. And when our Lord says they shall be “added,” it is implied, as a matter of course, that the seekers of the kingdom and its righteousness shall have these as their proper and primary portion: the rest being their gracious reward for not seeking them.*

– Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible

***We can protect the anointing on our lives by always seeking the Kingdom of God first and keeping our motives for ministry pure.**

4.) SAUL PLAYED THE HYPOCRITE & JUSTIFIED HIS ACTIONS

1 Samuel 15:14-21 ¹⁴ But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” ¹⁵ And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.” ¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” ¹⁷ So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? ¹⁸ Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ ¹⁹ Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?” ²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹ But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”

The play on words seen in this chapter in the original Hebrew language is very powerful and interesting. We see how Saul is justifying his actions and using excuse after excuse. It is the same as our current day-to-day dilemma where someone gets caught out doing something wrong. Firstly, they lie and boast in self-righteousness, because they are trying to cover up and be a hypocrite. Secondly, when they get caught out, they throw out excuse after excuse and begin to justify their actions. Finally, they accidentally slip out more hidden information of what they have done wrong – like in verse 20, the scholars tell us that Saul accidentally mentioned that he also took Agag, the king of the Amalekites.

THE 1st SIGN OF HYPOCRISY is when Saul came to Samuel and said, “**Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord**”. Saul did not perform the commandment of the Lord and he operated in hypocrisy and falsehood.

Psalm 24:3-4 ³Who shall go up into the mountain of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His Holy Place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted himself up to falsehood or to what is false, nor sworn deceitfully.

THE 2nd SIGN OF HYPOCRISY is that Saul wanted to look good and righteous, and therefore boasted that all those cattle which he took was to sacrifice to the Lord.

We see that Saul repented at the end, but his repentance was neither sincere nor true. Usually, when someone tries to justify their actions without taking responsibility they eventually repent because “**it is the right thing to do**”. Most of the time they only do so because they were caught out, then that repentance is rarely true and sincere.

***We can protect the anointing on our lives by taking responsibility for our actions and always staying true, pure, real and honest.**

5.) SAUL FEARED THE PEOPLE

1 Samuel 15:24 ²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

Instead of fearing God, Saul feared the people. Now that he feared the people, he had to continually please them as well. When I please people, I have lost the fear of God, because now my fear has been turned from God towards the people.

Gal 1:10 “Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” (NIV)

Gal 1:10 “Do you think I speak this strongly in order to manipulate crowds? Or curry favor with God? Or get popular applause? If my goal was popularity, I wouldn’t bother being Christ’s slave.” (MSG)

The phrase: “**I would not be a servant of Christ**” is an allusion to Christ’s teaching that one cannot serve two masters. If I fear people then they are my masters. If I fear God then He is my Master.

The servant of God is constantly tempted to compromise in order to attract and please men. When D.L. Moody was preaching in England, a worker came to him on the platform and told him that a very important nobleman had come into the hall. "May the meeting be a blessing to him!" was Moody's reply, and he preached just as before, without trying to impress anybody. – The Bible Exposition Commentary

Proverbs 29:25 "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe"

Proverbs 29:25 "People are trapped by their fear of others; those who trust the LORD are secure." (CEB)

***We can protect the anointing on our lives by not having the fear of man, neither pleasing people, but to continually cultivate the fear of God.**

6.) SAUL LACKED AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Saul's sins were very small in comparison to David's, yet God rejected Saul and the kingdom was taken away from him, but God on the other hand accepted David! David committed adultery, premeditated murder, lying and yet he was called a man after God's own heart.

Let's look at the scripture below that reveals Saul's lack of intimate relationship with God.

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵ Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD." ²⁶ But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." ²⁷ And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, *who is* better than you. ²⁹ And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He *is* not a man, that He should relent." ³⁰ Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God."

THE 1st SIGN OF A LACK OF INTIMACY IN SAUL'S LIFE was when he said in verse 25 – "**...please pardon my sin**" – he offers this prayer to Samuel, not to God!

One of the biggest flaws in Saul's life was the fact that he never had a deep, intimate and personal relationship with God and that flaw opened up the door for most of his other sins that we studied today.

2 Samuel 12:13 "So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord has also put away your sin; you shall not die."

In the above verse we see that David got caught with his sin, and Nathan, the prophet, confronted David. David's response was very radical and totally contrary to that of Saul. Saul confesses his sin to Samuel, but never repented of it. He explained why he sinned ("I feared the people"), but he never turned away from it. I have met and counseled countless of people who truly felt sorry for their sins (Mainly because they were caught out), they also confessed and knew exactly what they did was wrong – yet they never repented, thus causing all the trouble in their lives. Saul was confessing, feeling bad only because he was caught out, but never had true repentance!

As a matter of fact, Saul's biggest concern was that he was going to look bad in the eyes of the people and he actually asked Samuel to honor him in front of the people! It's as if he was saying, **"Yes, yes, you're right, this sin business has been a difficulty, but since you're here, let's call a press conference and get a good photo op!"** On the contrary, we see that David immediately said that he sinned against the Lord and we can also see his heart-felt repentance in the popular **PSALM 51**.

THE 2nd SIGN OF A LACK OF INTIMACY IN SAUL'S LIFE was when he went up to worship God - notice the change in his vocabulary: While before, he was calling the Lord "**the Lord,**" (**11:13; 13:12; 14:33-34**; etc.) three times in this chapter that we are studying now he calls the Lord, "**The Lord YOUR God.**" Now he doesn't even see the Lord as his own God, but as Samuel's God. We can clearly see that there is a definite separation happening in Saul's relationship with God.

THE 3rd SIGN OF A LACK OF INTIMACY IN SAUL'S LIFE can be seen in verse 27 - **27 And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.**

The scholars are telling me that as much as this was a desperate act, it was also a very violent act towards Samuel. Saul had no respect and honor for God's divine authority over his life. David, on the other hand, got convicted immediately for touching the Lord's anointed when he cut off the corner of Saul's robe. – **1 Sam 24:5-6** ⁵ **Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.** ⁶ **And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he *is* the anointed of the LORD."**

***We can protect the anointing on our lives by continually cultivating our personal intimate relationship with God**

Let's consider Saul's lifestyle and failures that caused the kingdom and the anointing to be removed from him. Saul will forever have a testimony and legacy that God regretted making him king! What a disgrace, what a shame!

Every single one of us has an anointing upon our lives. This anointing is extremely precious and priceless! Let's do everything to protect the anointing!