



POTPOURRI FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

(remembrances of the Holy Spirit)

King Saul & Samson: Examples of Being Outcome-Based

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Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

A little reminder. When we use the term **“obedience-based”** we're describing followers of Jesus whose hearts are filled with enormous gratitude for the **saving grace** which they received through the shed blood of our Lord. Undergirded by their heartfelt appreciation for WHO called them and set them to serve the living God, the obedience-based unwaveringly depend on the **grace with purpose** which the Holy Spirit imparts to the *genuinely* born again, people who are committed to fulfilling Father's will. Whenever the two of us sense that we're losing any of our thankfulness for the saving grace we've received, we pray as David did, *“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit!”* (Psalms 51:12).

For several decades we've painfully observed that a huge majority of Christians live **“outcome-based”**, believing they can control their own lives and bring about a particular result.

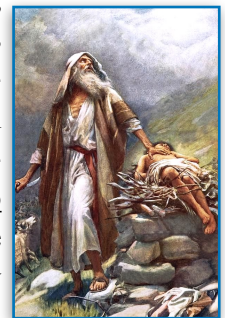
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Sadly, most are also consumed with the values and goals of this world. They could accurately be described as **“deluded Deists”**. Deism accepts that God created everything. **But** they also believe and live as though He has entrusted them to ‘do their own thing’. This demonic and delusional rationale entirely eliminating the biblical reality of any interactive experience with the rule of our Lord Jesus and the guidance and empowerment of His Spirit in fulfilling our Father’s will.

A major **presumption** of Deism is that the only outcome which God seeks is “getting people saved”. Deism eradicates the Bible’s perspective that when a person becomes *genuinely* born again, they're embarking on an **obedience-based life pilgrimage** of serving our heavenly Father’s will through love-grounded obedient trust. You don’t earn heaven by carrying out His will. But living ruled by our Lord Jesus and guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit in fulfilling Father’s will verifies that you really do belong to Him. Like our father Abraham whom God called out of Ur to live in trusting obedience to His will and commands, no less is required of the *genuinely* born again—especially when the Holy Spirit dwells within you. So be sure you confirm His abiding Presence!



Do you clearly understand that our Father's purpose both through ancient Israel and through us who love and follow our Lord Jesus has been to fulfill His will on earth by making Him known and reconciling people to Him (Matthew 7:21;12:50)? Being *genuinely* born again means we've been commanded to be our Lord’s **redemptive ambassadors** (2Corinthians 5:18). In living out this privilege and responsibility as Christ's own, we are commanded to *“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of every opportunity”* (Colossians 4:5; see also Ephesians 5:15,16). We're to live revealing our Lord Jesus to those living without His indwelling Spirit. **If** this isn’t describing you, then consider that you're sinfully disobeying our Father, or perhaps aren't genuinely born again at all.

Don’t take this too lightly!! Father’s entire plan of saving sinful mankind is made possible through the bloody sacrifice of His dear Son. In this light, being Christ's redemptive ambassador in the world is demanded of His own. It's not just a suggestion.

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead” (James 2:26).

We realize that for you to stop living outcome-based and become obedience-based as our Lord would have you is like *‘going through the valley of the shadow of death’*. In order for you to hear and obey the voice of our Lord’s Spirit, you must forfeit the self-willed identity you had when you wanted control of your life. It’s no small thing that we’re warned, *“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts”* (Hebrews 4:7), which is repeated several times. Our Lord Jesus commands His own, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhema]** that comes from the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4).

****Rhema** is the specific revelation given by the Holy Spirit to followers of our Lord Jesus via their own spirit. We call it ***“having a witness in our spirit”*** when the Spirit of our Lord gives guidance or confirms something. In the Bible, whenever the Holy Spirit shares a *rhema* revealing our Father’s specific will and it’s acted upon, **grace with purpose** and **spiritual power** go forth to accomplish His will.

“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?” (Romans 11:34).

The obedience-based way of life that’s enacted through loving trust is the only way of life that’s acceptable to our Lord. It’s clearly spotlighted throughout the Scriptures. As you read how our Sovereign God describes Himself and His limitless ways compared to our finite and limited perspective, you can understand how important it is that you love and obey such a Mighty God. It’s impossible for you to discern His specific will if He doesn’t reveal it to you through His Spirit:

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,’ declares the LORD. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater; so is My word [rhema] that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it”” (Isaiah 55:8-11).

There’s no way that anyone can ‘psyche out’ our Father’s will. **If** you make decisions and take actions without the Holy Spirit guiding you, then you’re acting with **presumption**. Not good...

Trusting Obedience

The Bible reveals that God’s will is far different than humans can conceive. The obedience-based first seek the guidance of our Lord’s Spirit in fulfilling Father’s will. They aren’t concerned about the outcome, but only that they have the Spirit’s guidance. Being confident of Whose will they are fulfilling, they’re assured that with Father’s will comes His provision. This divine interaction always fulfills Father’s will to His glory.

Presumption

In their insolence the presumptuous believe that they don’t need the Spirit’s guidance nor are they held accountable to fulfill Father’s will. The devil will entice them into feeling confident in their own abilities and goals. But their ventures always end in disappointment even if they initially feel right or start well. And the demons really rejoice when the disappointed blame Father for failing them!

“Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did” (1Corinthians 10:6).

This verse about disobedient Israel warns us today of one of God’s purposes for the Older Testament. And Paul again reminds us of how useful these God-breathed Hebrew texts are for us who love and serve our Lord Jesus (2Timothy 3:16,17). Also, numerous examples in the Older Testament reveal how very different God’s ways are from ours. It also reveals the dire conse-

quences of human presumption. Let's look at just two samples, King Saul and Samson.

King Saul is a prime example of **disobedient presumption** which ultimately cost him his kingdom and his life. (See 1Samuel 13:1-14 which describes Saul's first presumptuous act.) The prophet Samuel made clear just how costly his presumption was: "But 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" (1Samuel 13:14). Saul's fear-based presumption triggered far more dire consequences for him than he could have imagined.



In another instance of disobedient presumption, King Saul was commanded: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction [i.e., kill and destroy everything] all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey'" (1Samuel 15:2,3). Disregarding God's command, "Saul and the people spared King Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction" (1Samuel 15:9).

That act of disobedient presumption clearly showed Saul setting his will above God's will, thereby grieving the Holy God of Israel. "The word of the LORD came to Samuel: 'I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not obeyed My commandments...'" (1Samuel 15:10,11). "And Samuel said [to King Saul], 'Has the LORD as much 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 divination [witchcraft; seeking control rather than obeying], and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king'" (vv. 22,23). Samuel's words are warnings for all, both the *genuinely* born again and those who are not. Evidencing your love for God by obeying His commands because HE is the One Who gave them stands above everything else we might think important as we walk in the steps of the Lord we trust. **If** you want your efforts to be blessed by Father, **do it His way**.

Something for you to consider: When it comes to God's way of enacting His will, revisit the way in which He had Saul meet Samuel. During that orchestrated encounter the prophet told Saul that he had been chosen by God to be Israel's first king (1 Samuel 8:1-10:27). God's script always has a divine touch.

The life of Samson reveals a slightly different perspective (see Judges 13:1-16:31). Prior to Samson's conception, God informed his parents of His purpose for their son: "[Samson] will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines" (Judges 13:5). But given the sorry



personal choices Samson made before he delivered Israel from the Philistines, no one could have envisioned ahead of time how he'd ultimately fulfill God's purpose. Don't think you know how Father is going to accomplish something unless He has told you. (Another example in the Older Testament is how God recruited the fear-plagued Gideon to defeat the Midianite army with only 300 men.)

Our heart's concern in offering these examples is that unless you are obedience-based, you won't perceive Father's specific purposes for your life or how He intends to fulfill His will through you. **If** you're *genuinely* born again, then you must refuse the presumption of being outcome-based. Remain steadfastly obedience-based and unconcerned about where the Holy Spirit is guiding you or how you'll be used. Rather, be as keen about the Spirit's presence as Moses was: "If Your presence doesn't go with us, don't make us go on from here" (Exodus 33:15).

Something else to consider: If you're obedience-based, you view God's Word as commanding a way of living because HE gave it. By contrast, the outcome-based see the Bible as a source of beliefs. Another key difference: The obedience-based are much more conscious of being citizens of heaven who currently live on earth. The outcome-based, though, are more bent on the things of this world and what delights them in it. (For the two of us as US citizens, our citizenship in heaven inspires us to be good citizens here. Consequently we have a deep regard for our fellow man and for upholding their dignity with **Christ's love, forgiveness and compassion** no matter the cost.)

Another major difference between the outcome-based and the obedience-based is that the former look back at what they accomplished and feel good about themselves and/or take the credit. Conversely, the obedience-based look back and recognize what the Spirit of our Lord accomplished through them and give Father the glory (Luke 17:10). We've observed over the years that most of the outcome-based have never been delivered from the influence of demonic spirits residing in the strongholds in their souls. As often as we've sent out **Demolishing Your Strongholds Online Form** to scrutinize possible demonic influence or control in their souls, few follow through. The "voice" of the demons in their mind, will and emotions sounds just like their own inner voice and deters them. Being spiritually compromised, they make themselves unavailable for the Holy Spirit to use them as He would if they were fully free indeed.

We strongly encourage you, your family and faith family to go through this one-page sheet and discover if demonic influences are hindering you or operating among you. Those who are free of demons find it easy to be obedience-based because they're able to listen only to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

"New wine must be put into fresh wineskins" (Luke 5:38).

In living as 'new wine'—as *genuinely* born again and free of demonic influence—heed this:

- Stop being anxious about future outcomes!
- Avoid wearying yourself with concerns about what present situations may lead to!
- The future is our Lord's domain!
- TODAY is the only day He is giving you His daily grace!

We want to affirm this truth one more time. When our Father and our Lord Jesus are preeminent in your life, your spiritual journey is best described as ***ongoing divine interaction that you experience.*** Again, this divine interaction occurs:

- +through the prayers of the repentant, resulting in Father answering and Him being glorified;
- +in receiving guidance and empowerment by the Holy Spirit;
- +in divinely orchestrated encounters and interventions.

Finally, we who love and follow our Lord Jesus do have a cross to bear. Our cross is one in which our Lord's grace prevails—His love, forgiveness, compassion, and our obedience no matter how others respond to us. Our Lord seeks humble, faceless followers through whom only His face shines. In times of turmoil and a future in which people are increasingly finding themselves succumbing to cold love (Matthew 24:12), make sure that others clearly see our Lord Jesus in you.

Mike & Sue

P.S. You might gain deeper insight into our lives by reading some of our personal anecdotes in Kingdom Living Today Addenda: **"If the LORD Had Not Been On Our Side..."** Sue's account of how she got her Chevette 'sports car' is a beautiful testimony to our Father's way of doing things!