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YouTube Prayer Link

Once God decides, it is useless to ask for more

In 1 Samuel 28, we see that Saul felt helpless in the face of the threat of the Philistines. He did not receive instructions from God and did not find any prophet to help him.

Eventually, he decided to go to a witch known as the Woman of Endor. Although God explicitly forbade the Israelites to deal with witches, Saul decided to go to her. He asked the woman to pray for the spirit of the dead Samuel to prophesy and guide him in the future.

When the woman saw Saul, she was terrified and warned him that if the matter leaked out, she would be severely punished. But Saul promised not to let the matter leak out, so the woman began to pray for the spirit of the dead Samuel.

In the process, a man who looks like Samuel really appears. He told Saul that God had deposed his throne and given the country to David. He also told Saul that he and his sons would fight the Philistines tomorrow and that they would be defeated. Samuel's spirit then vanished, and Saul fell into deep despair.

The whole affair shows that Saul has completely distanced himself from God and is in a difficult situation of his own. Instead of realizing his sins and mistakes, he continued to look for another way out, which would only lead to more calamity and destruction in the end.

God decides that it is useless to ask for too much

When we feel irritable and troubled, prayer can be a kind of sustenance and comfort. Even though we know that God has decided many things, prayer can still make us feel more connected to God. In prayer, we can express our feelings, confusions, and needs and share our hearts with God. Although God already knows everything, prayer enables us to understand God's plan more

deeply and find peace and comfort in it. Let us seek God's guidance and strength in prayer to fill our hearts with His peace.

Saul was confused and hopeless because of God's forsakenness. During a battle with the Philistines, Saul felt God's help turn away from him, and he felt helpless and isolated. So, he decided to seek spiritual counseling, even though the gods forbade them to deal with witchcraft and demons.

Saul traveled to Elean and found a woman called a plastic chest, who was said to be able to communicate with the spirits of the dead. Saul asked her to help him talk to the deceased Samuel by befriending demons. When Samuel's spirit appeared, he conveyed to Saul God's judgment and rejection of him, prophesied the death of Saul and his son Jonathan, and the crushing defeat of the Israeli army in the ensuing battle.

This story shows us how important and dangerous spiritual warfare can be. Saul's actions went against God's will, and as a result, they led to more disasters and misfortunes. We need to remain close and obedient to God at all times, rather than seeking our own way or using non-divine means to solve problems. Spiritual warfare is not only against external enemies, but also against inner temptations and actions contrary to God's will. In the face of difficulties and challenges, we should seek God's help and guidance instead of taking a path that goes against God's will.

It's a very difficult time when we're in a state of despair, but it doesn't mean there's no hope. Here are some suggestions:

Seek support: Don't go through feelings of despair alone. Share your feelings with family, friends, or faith communities and seek their support and listening. Having someone who listens and understands your pain will make you feel more loved and supported.

Seek professional help: If you're feeling hopeless for a long time and can't get rid of it on your own, consider seeking help from a mental health professional, such as a psychotherapist or psychologist. They have the experience and skills to help you navigate challenges and find new hope.

Look for positive outlets: Even though you may feel hopeless right now, look for something that will bring you joy or fulfillment. This could be engaging in activities you enjoy, spending time with close people, or pursuing personal interests.

Develop self-care: When you're hopeless, remember to take care of your body and mind.

Maintaining a healthy diet, getting enough sleep, and exercising in moderation are important to improve your mood. At the same time, learn to accept your emotions and give yourself some tenderness and understanding.

Look for faith support: If you are religious, prayer and communication with God can bring comfort and hope. Participating in a religious group or looking for spiritual guidance can also help you find inner peace and support.

Focus on the present: Don't worry too much about future or past mistakes, focus on the present. Use meditation, breathing exercises, or other meditation techniques to help you relax and calm your mind.

Remember, despair is not eternal, although it may seem insurmountable. Seeking support, taking positive action, and maintaining faith in the future will help you gradually move out of the shadow of despair and rediscover hope and meaning

We pray together:

Heavenly Father, we come to you to pray for those who are lonely in heart and empty in heart. Ask them to infuse their lives with your love and comfort so that they feel your warmth and care. Give them the courage to seek out channels of social and support so that they no longer feel lonely and abandoned. May your love surround them and bring peace and fulfillment to their hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

1 Samuel

CHAPTER 28

1Sa. 28:1 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, "You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army."

1Sa. 28:2 David said, "Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do." Achish replied, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

1Sa. 28:3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.

1Sa. 28:4 The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all the Israelites and set up camp at Gilboa.

1Sa. 28:5 When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart.

1Sa. 28:6 He enquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets.

1Sa. 28:7 Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go and enquire of her." "There is one in Endor," they said.

1Sa. 28:8 So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name."

1Sa. 28:9 But the woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land.

Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?"

1Sa. 28:10 Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this."

1Sa. 28:11 Then the woman asked, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" "Bring up Samuel," he said.

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1Sa. 28:12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are

Saul!”

1Sa. 28:13 The king said to her, “Don’t be afraid. What do you see?”

The woman said, “I see a spirit [Or see spirits; or see gods] coming up out of the ground.”

1Sa. 28:14 “What does he look like?” he asked. “An old man wearing a robe is coming up,” she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.

1Sa. 28:15 Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” “I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has turned away from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do.”

1Sa. 28:16 Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has turned away from you and become your enemy?”

1Sa. 28:17 The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbours — to David.

1Sa. 28:18 Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the LORD has done this to you today.

1Sa. 28:19 The LORD will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also hand over the army of Israel to the Philistines.”

1Sa. 28:20 Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of Samuel’s words. His strength was gone, for he had eaten nothing all that day and night.

1Sa. 28:21 When the woman came to Saul and saw that he was greatly shaken, she said, “Look, your maidservant has obeyed you. I took my life in my hands and did what you told me to do.

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1Sa. 28:22 Now please listen to your servant and let me give you some food so that you may eat and have the strength to go on your way.”

1Sa. 28:23 He refused and said, “I will not eat.” But his men joined the woman in urging him, and he listened to them. He got up from the ground and sat on the couch.

1Sa. 28:24 The woman had a fattened calf at the house, which she slaughtered at once. She took some flour, kneaded it and baked bread without yeast.

1Sa. 28:25 Then she set it before Saul and his men, and they ate. That same night they got up and left.

Chapter 28 of 1 Samuel begins with the news that the Philistines had gathered their armies together to make war against Israel. When Saul saw the size of the Philistine army, he was afraid and sought the Lord for guidance, but the Lord did not answer him.

Desperate, Saul turns to a medium in Endor and asks her to summon Samuel from the dead. The woman is hesitant to comply, as Saul had previously banned all necromancers and mediums from Israel, but Saul insists and promises to spare her life.

When Samuel's spirit appears before Saul, he is shocked and afraid. Samuel rebukes Saul for his disobedience to the Lord and foretells the downfall of Saul and his kingdom. Samuel tells Saul that the Lord has already torn the kingdom from his hand and given it to David, and that both Saul and his sons will die the next day in battle against the Philistines.

Saul is overcome with fear and falls to the ground. The medium and his servants try to comfort him, and the next day, Saul and his sons do indeed die in battle as Samuel had prophesied. This marks the end of Saul's reign as king of Israel.

Here are some important verses from chapter 28 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 28:6 - "He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets."

1 Samuel 28:13-14 - "The king said to her, 'Don't be afraid. What do you see?' The woman said, 'I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth.' 'What does he look like?' he asked. 'An old man wearing a robe is coming up,' she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground."

These verses describe how, in his desperation, Saul turns to a medium to seek guidance from the dead prophet Samuel, who had previously anointed him as king. Although Saul had earlier driven out all mediums from Israel, he disguises himself and seeks out the medium, who initially refuses to help him. However, at Saul's insistence, she summons Samuel's spirit, which appears and delivers a message of doom and judgment upon Saul. This chapter highlights the consequences of disobedience and the dangers of seeking guidance outside of God's will. It also emphasizes the reality of spiritual warfare and the need for discernment and obedience to God's word

1 Samuel chapter 28 tells the account of Saul's desperate visit to the medium at En-dor, seeking guidance from the deceased prophet Samuel. This chapter explores themes of desperation, spiritual deception, and the consequences of disobedience.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of desperation. Saul, facing a critical situation with the Philistine army and feeling abandoned by God, resorts to seeking guidance from a medium, an act strictly forbidden by God's law. His desperation leads him to take matters into his own hands and seek supernatural counsel from forbidden sources.

This chapter serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us of the dangers of allowing desperation to lead us astray. It prompts us to place our trust in God even in the midst of difficult

circumstances, rather than seeking solutions through ungodly means. It reminds us that God is our ultimate source of help and guidance, and we should turn to Him in times of desperation.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 28 highlights the spiritual deception that can occur when we seek answers outside of God's revealed will. The medium conjures an apparition that appears to be Samuel, which further compounds Saul's desperation and confusion. However, it is important to note that this is a deceptive spirit, not the actual prophet Samuel.

This chapter warns us about the dangers of spiritual deception and the cunning tactics of the enemy. It reminds us to test all spirits and discern the source of the guidance we seek. It prompts us to anchor ourselves in the truth of God's Word and seek His guidance through prayer and His revealed will.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 28 underscores the consequences of disobedience. Saul's disobedience and rejection of God's commands lead to his downfall and the loss of God's favor. The chapter serves as a tragic reminder of the consequences that can follow when we turn away from God's ways and pursue our own desires.

This chapter encourages us to be obedient to God's commands and seek His will above all else. It prompts us to prioritize our relationship with God, living in alignment with His Word and seeking His guidance in all aspects of our lives. It reminds us that disobedience can have severe consequences and calls us to submit ourselves to God's authority and follow His leading.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 28 brings forth reflections on desperation, spiritual deception, and the consequences of disobedience. It warns us against allowing desperation to lead us to seek solutions outside of God's will. It reminds us to be vigilant against spiritual deception and to seek God's guidance through His Word and prayer. It prompts us to prioritize obedience to God's commands and to humbly submit ourselves to His authority. May we trust in God's faithfulness, seek His guidance in all things, and remain steadfast in our obedience to Him.