

Here I Am

Pastor Craig Sweeney | April 6, 2025

"The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you." **1 Samuel 10:6 – 7 NIV**

Thread: The Spirit of God is with you—opportunity waits.

- Saul will be given this clarity.
- This word from Samuel is clarity—that God is with him to advance the kingdom's impact, not just to fend off the enslaving Philistines.

"As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him..." **1 Samuel 10:9 – 10 NIV**

God did exactly what He said He would do.

- The question is not: Can we count on God to follow through?
- The real question: Can God count on you/me to follow through?

"Samuel explained to the people the rights and duties of kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the Lord. Then Samuel dismissed the people to go to their own homes. Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched." **1 Samuel 10:25 – 26 NIV**

"Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, 'Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you.' But Nahash the Ammonite replied, 'I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel.' The elders of Jabesh said to him, 'Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you.' When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud. Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, 'What is wrong with everyone? Why are they weeping?' Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said. When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he burned with anger." **1 Samuel 11:1 – 6 NIV**

What's important about this passage:

- Saul distanced himself from his responsibility.
- Saul is coronated king. What did he do next?
- He went home to plow fields and tend the animals on his family farm.

Crucial lesson: Saul was all defense and no offense.

- Defense is about protecting what you have.
- Offense is about gaining new ground or strengthening ground you are already on.

The question we are looking at today is not: What am I called to be?

It's: The Lord is with you—what will you do?

"Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." **Luke 11:5 – 10 NLT**

We are often paralyzed by indecision and for good reason, BUT God has given us OPPORTUNITIES all around us. What will you ask for? What will your hands find to do—in Jesus' name?

Challenge:

-The Spirit of God is with you—what do you want to do?

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