

**Here I am**  
**Dark Powers**  
Pastor Craig Sweeney | August 24, 2025

**Thread:** God is writing an epic story, and He alone has the authority to see it through.

*“About that time the Philistines mustered their armies for another war with Israel...Saul had banned from the land of Israel all mediums and those who consult the spirits of the dead. The Philistines set up their camp at Shunem, and Saul gathered all the army of Israel and camped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the vast Philistine army, he became frantic with fear. He asked the LORD what he should do, but the LORD refused to answer him, either by dreams or by sacred lots or by the prophets. Saul then said to his advisers, ‘Find a woman who is a medium, so I can go and ask her what to do.’ His advisers replied, ‘There is a medium at Endor.’”* **1 Samuel 28:1–7 NLT**

**God has taken His Holy Spirit from Saul.**

- **Saul had rejected God decades before this and remained unrepentant.**
  - **Psalms 51: 1-19**

**Saul could have been inspired by David’s walk with God.**

**Are people taking note that you have been with Jesus?**

*“So, Saul disguised himself by wearing ordinary clothing instead of his royal robes. Then he went to the woman’s home at night, accompanied by two of his men. ‘I have to talk to a man who has died,’ he said. ‘Will you call up his spirit for me?’ ‘Are you trying to get me killed?’ the woman demanded. ‘You know that Saul has outlawed all the mediums and all who consult the spirits of the dead. Why are you setting a trap for me?’ But Saul took an oath in the name of the LORD and promised, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, nothing bad will happen to you for doing this.’ Finally, the woman said, ‘Well, whose spirit do you want me to call up?’ ‘Call up Samuel,’ Saul replied. When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed, ‘You’ve deceived me! You are Saul!’ ‘Don’t be afraid!’ the king told her. ‘What do you see?’ ‘I see a god coming up out of the earth,’ she said.”* **1 Samuel 28: 8-13 NLT**

**It’s important to note that she is terrified, because she has lost control.**

- **God’s AUTHORITY has overridden what she knows.**
- **She is powerless against this GREATEST power.**

*‘What does he look like?’ Saul asked. ‘He is an old man wrapped in a robe,’ she replied. Saul realized it was Samuel, and he fell to the ground before him. ‘Why have you disturbed me by calling me back?’ Samuel asked Saul. ‘Because I am in deep trouble,’ Saul replied. ‘The Philistines are at war with me, and God has left me and won’t reply by prophets or dreams. So I have called for you to tell me what to do.’ But Samuel replied, ‘Why ask me, since the LORD has left you and has become your enemy? The LORD has done just as he said he would. He has torn the kingdom from you and given it to your rival, David. The LORD has done this to you today because you refused to carry out his fierce anger against the Amalekites. What’s more, the LORD will hand you and the army of Israel over to the Philistines tomorrow, and you and your sons will be here with me. The LORD will bring down the entire army of Israel in defeat.’”* **1 Samuel 28:14-19 NLT**

**SAUL, you chose wrong...**

- **God’s authority is final.**

*“Saul fell full length on the ground, paralyzed with fright...Then they went out into the night.”* **1 Samuel 28:20-25 NLT**

**What we must see more clearly:**

- **There are demonic/satanic powers at work in our world.**

**Jesus** – *“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”* **John 10:10 NLT**

- God is the presence of GOOD.
- Evil is the work against God’s GOOD
- Angels work on behalf of God for that GOOD.
- satan, lucifer, devil, beelzebub and fallen angels work against God’s GOOD in this world.

**John 16:33, 1 John 5: 1-5, Revelation 17:14NLT**

**We are not in an ambiguous battle between something GOOD and something BAD.** **Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT**

**Challenge:**

- Do you know the battle you are in?
- Do you know who to put your faith in?
- Are you on the wrong side of repentance before God?
- Be at peace. Walk with Jesus.

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