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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* [Acts 16:31a](#) And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* [Romans 10:9,10](#) *"For; "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* [Romans 10:13](#) *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* [Romans 5:1](#)

Demonic Fear

"But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee." 1 Samuel 16:14,15

A. 1 Samuel 16:14, "But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him." - וְרוּחַ יְהוָה סָרָה, מֵעַם שָׂאוּל; וּבִעֲתָתוֹ רוּחַ-רָעָה, מֵאֵת יְהוָה.

1. "But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul," - *weruach yehwah sarah me'im shaul*. The **Spirit of the Lord** is *rûach yehwah*, or the Spirit of *Yahweh*. and is a reference to the Holy Spirit, the 3rd person of the trinity.

From is *me'im* a combination of two words *min* and *'im*. *Im* is used in a variety of ways denoting fellowship, communion, association, nearness, being with someone, etc.. *Min* is to depart from, or to come from that closeness of contact or association with that person. Priests, prophets and kings were given the Holy Spirit to help them in what God had called them to do. He came upon them, but did not dwell in them like he does with all NT believers today. The place, or person as we have here in the passage, that God turns away from is denoted by the preposition *min*. The Greek uses *apo* for *me'im*. The Greek had trouble trying to find the right words to denote this idea, but it did use the word *apostrepho*, to turn away from.

To **depart** is the gal preterite of *sûr*, which is not a simple to depart from. It is connected to the idea of holiness, righteousness, the path that God wants us to take, to depart from evil, etc.. When it is used with God and an individual, it means that God is turning away from him and is no longer going to help him, or even associate with him. And the reason why is because that individual had turned to evil, so therefore God must go away from him because he will have no part with evil. The reason why the Holy Spirit left Saul is because of his disobedience to the Lord.

2. "And an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him." - *ubi'athattu ruach-ra'ah meeth yehwah*. The word for **spirit** here is *ruach* just the same as we had before, except we know that the first reference to the spirit is defined as being from God himself to help Saul, but this one is defined as being an evil spirit.

The word **troubled** is the piel preterite of *bâ'ath*. In the piel stem *ba'ath* meant to frighten someone, to terrify them, often with the idea of it happening suddenly. Suddenly, because when the evil spirit would come upon Saul, he would become terrified. There is fear, then above that is terror with the added idea of being overtaken by sudden terror.

It was used in a life-threatening situation where death was imminent, or when facing the judgment of the Almighty God, or in the presence of an angel, which both David and Daniel experienced. Job used it five times to describe what he was going through. And it was used of Saul here. It was defined as an evil spirit that troubled Saul, but now we can see how it troubled him and that was by creating in him a spirit of fear. 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the **spirit of fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

David was not a stranger to fear and he knew full well what it felt like. Psalms 55:4,5. "My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are

come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me." But his bouts with fear were due to living outside the faith rest dynamic, and not due to some demon infusing fear into him because of disobedience.

What we're trying to look at in our study are some of the characteristics of demonic influence and why they come to be, so we can identify the presence and nature of demonic attacks and then apply the correct doctrinal solution to them. For example there is a spirit that accompanies false doctrine that is taught by false teachers. 1 John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the **spirits** whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 Timothy 4:1, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

B. 1 Samuel 16:15, "And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee." - ןיאמריו עבדי-שאול, אליו: הנה-נא רוח-אלהים רעה, מבעתך.

We notice that Saul lost his soul's protection when the Holy Spirit departed from him; it was then that this evil spirit bothered him. And the dynamic of bothering was in the area of the fear complex where he would be overtaken by anxiety. It reminds me of having an anxiety disorder that would be always there, but become pronounced in what we call an anxiety attack. This is not to say that everyone who has a fear complex problem is suffering from demonic oppression, but this was Saul's problem.

When it comes down to v.15 we see that the participial form is used telling us that this dynamic has now become a way of life for Saul. A demon has attached himself to Saul and is now terrorizing him with fear; he's now having to deal with debilitating fear coming and going in his life all the time.

We often talk about demon possession in the NT, "he has a demon", but with the participial form being used, it would be more along the line of an individual being "demonized". This would tend to more indicate that an individual could be terrorized by a demon without having to have the demon literally indwell them.

Yahweh had removed his Spirit from King Saul because of his disobedience, (**something that will not be done in the Church Age; the Holy Spirit is God's permanent gift to us**), and an evil spirit was sent to Saul from God. It was an **evil spirit, ra'ah**, because of the destructiveness of its influence. *Ra'ah* dealt with the idea of the destruction of the **well being** of the individual's soul and life. And this is what demons, evil spirits, do to God's people when they have access to our lives. They are definitely to be avoided and God has given us a spiritual provision to protect us from them.

This goes back to when *Yahweh* had commanded Saul to attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all of them and everything they had: men, women, children and infants, their cattle, sheep, camels and donkeys. 1 Samuel 15:3. But instead, they spared king **Agag** and the best of the sheep, cattle, fat calves and lambs; the weak and despised they destroyed. This disobedience cost him his throne and his sanity.

The narrative of chapters 15 and 16 tells us what went on, but we can look at some of the points that stand out: 1) he broke the command structure of authority by not carrying out the Lord's express orders in the matter; 2) he cared more about what the people would think of him, instead of what the Lord would think; 3) he twisted things around in his own mind to the place that he **had** obeyed the Lord, when he didn't. He said in 1 Samuel 15:20, "But I did obey the Lord"; but this was the **reasoning of**

human viewpoint. Instead of following what the Word says, we add our two cents to it to twist it around to say what we want it to say; a very common concept in Christianity today; 4) then it is very interesting that he said that they could be sacrificed to *Yahweh* **your** God, not **our** God, but **your** God;

5) **he brought in the idea of the works of religion in trying to establish a form of worship of God that he had not authorized, by saying that these good animals could be sacrificed to *Yahweh*.** This is where Samuel set him straight by saying that **obedience is better than sacrifice**, v.22. 6) we see the **rebellion** of Saul in the matter in v.23. Human good and human viewpoint is all rebellion against God, under the sugar coating of human good, sincerity and religiosity. But rebellion before the eyes of a Holy God is the same sin as divination; 7) we see that Saul was **arrogant**. He may have had a nice personality and charisma; he may have tried to come across as being sincere and “loving the Lord”, but he was arrogant. **And arrogance is as evil as idolatry before God**; 8) there was his **phony confession** to Samuel in 1 Samuel 15:24,25, “*And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.*” Phony because we see in v. 27 as Samuel turned to leave, **Saul assaulted Samuel by grabbing hold of his robe and tearing it**: 9) This assault showed that Saul had no respect whatsoever for, not only the Word of God, but also the communicators of God’s Word! One does not treat God’s communicators with contempt. We represent him, and it’s as if you were personally treating him that way. In v.30 he’s still going on with his phony confession, 10) but in the tenth point, we see once again he’s more interested in keeping a public appearance than he is pleasing the Lord.

Saul’s attendants recognized what was going on in that he was being tormented by an evil spirit and they wanted to help, but the help they recommended for him really didn’t solve the problem. It alleviated the symptoms, but didn’t deal with the real issue. **It was more of a “new age” approach to the matter rather than a doctrinal one.** Feelings operate on certain frequencies; anger, guilt, hate and fear all have a frequency they operate on. The attendant’s solution was to play a harp and the resonant frequencies of the harp would operate on certain frequencies that would soothe the soul. As all of us know there is some music that is soothing to us, and then there is music that is really grating on the nerves. The same thing was going on with Saul’s soul. The gentle strumming of a harp would bring him some relief, it would be comforting and soothing, but did nothing to solve the problem, for the problem came from an evil spirit! The doctrinal approach would be to deal with the demonic issue, while the human viewpoint approach would be to apply a paregoric concept.

As we know Saul went further down into mental illness regardless of how many tunes David played for him, but he never dealt with the real issue of the evil spirit. But the core issue was not the evil spirit; it was his negative attitude toward the Word of God! This is not to say that every time we have fear that there is a demon behind it. The flesh nature produces its own fear without any input from demons. But demons do produce a horrible type of fear in God’s people and there is a spiritual provision to prevent that, or to get out of it if we’re caught up in it.

In 2 Samuel 22:5 we see that David had become terrified at the prospect of death when he was surrounded by his enemies, but the Lord delivered him from their hand, “*When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me **afraid**;*” piel future. This was a fear resulting from David not trusting in the Lord. It wasn’t a fear that was influenced into him by a demon. We see it expressed again in Psalms 18:4, “*The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me **afraid**.*” Piel future

What's the difference between Saul and David? They were both struck by debilitating fear, but David's fear was from the source of his flesh nature, while he was out of fellowship as we would say, and the source of Saul's fear was from an evil spirit. David's fear was sinful because he was not trusting the Lord at that situation in his life, while Saul's was evil because he had arrogantly rejected the Word of the Lord. David's fear was the natural outcome due to not trusting the Lord, while Saul's fear was due to the punishment of God in sending a demon to him to torment him.

The other big difference is **how both men handled the problem**. Saul cared not for the things of the Lord, his Word, or obeying the Lord. He didn't care about getting right with the Lord, nor did he care about effecting a doctrinal solution. All he cared about is what other people thought of him. So his words and acts of "contrition" were only for public show. While David, on the other hand, did love the Lord, his Word, and doing his will. And his remedy was to seek the Lord! In Psalm 18:5 he says that he sought the Lord, "*In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.*"

What we have with David is an example of the faith rest life and how we are to utilize it when faced with our many problems and fears in life. The faith rest life actually prevents fear in the lives of God's people! In Psalm 18:21b David said, "*I have not done evil by turning away from the Lord.*" It begins with having a positive mental attitude toward Bible Doctrine and making Bible Doctrine your life every single day. We confess our sins, if necessary; we turn our face to the Lord, his Word and promises; and then we seek his face in prayer for deliverance from, or through the situation. And, as David shows us, the Lord hears and the Lord delivers.

David lived the faith rest life, not perfectly in every situation, but overwhelmingly he did live by faith. But there were some times that he neglected it and became afraid. One of those times is when the Philistines, the enemies of God, had seized him in Gath. His gaze was averted from the Lord, (as Peter's was on the water), he had his eyes on men and he became afraid. "*What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.*" Psalm 56:3,4

This goes back to how David handled things that threatened him in his life. There comes a point when we have to ask ourselves, **is something wrong?** If we're all agitated, afraid and do not have the peace of God, then we have to conclude that something is amiss in our spiritual life. So fear becomes a "wake up" call; it tells us that we are not living in the spiritual dynamic provided by God and that we need to confess our sins, fear and unbelief included, and get back into concentrating on Bible doctrine and the promises of God.

And that's what David did. He says in God, whose doctrine I praise, in God I trust, I will not be afraid. Can't we see the secret here, if there is a secret? Sometimes I think Christians think that there is a secret to living the Christian life that, somehow, they have never discovered. Others have it, but not them. What they don't see, and something that perhaps has never really been emphasized in the churches they attend, is that it goes back to living life by faith in God and his Word!

The Christian Way of Life is not about formalism, ritualism, programs, entertainment, human good programs in the community; it's not about religiosity and man made works of religion; it's about occupying oneself each day with God through the teaching of Bible doctrine. As we are positive to and concentrate on the teaching of Bible Doctrine, under the filling of the Holy spirit and being in

fellowship with God via the confession of our sins to God, we enter into communion with the God of Doctrine through the teaching of Bible Doctrine! This is the Christian Way of Life, and anything other than that is man made religion.

Paul wrote that even though the outer man is perishing, (and some faster than others), the inner man is being renewed day by day. *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”* 2 Corinthians 4:16 He also wrote that the inner man is renewed by means of *epignosis*, which is the Bible Doctrine that we have learned and believed. *“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge (epignosis) after the image of him that created him.”* Colossians 3:10 This is the Christian life and this is the source for our power, strength and everything else that we might come up against in this life.

If you do not attend a local church, or if the church that you attend does not teach the Word of God, then you need to ask the Father to lead you to a ministry that has a Pastor-Teacher, whose ministry is centered around the exegesis and communication of Bible Doctrine, which we combine with our faith, then you can start living the spiritual dynamic of true Christianity. And the key to this is living the life of faith as David and so many others did.

The solution for fear is faith. **It’s to trust that the Lord has a provision for all our problems.** Every child of God on earth has had something they are faced with in life that threatens their security and well being: finances, health, jobs, terrorists, old age, housing, problems with other people, the list goes on. **But God has a perfect provision already planned out in eternity past to solve the problem!**

Faith comes in by believing that and turning to the Lord to deal with the issue. This is what David did when confronted with things that threatened him. *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”* Psalm 56:3 David said that when he was afraid he trusted in the Lord, which is to say that he believed that the Lord had a solution for what he was going through; he went to him for help in the matter and the Lord answered his prayer by delivering him. He said, *“I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”* Psalm 34:4

Why did David turn to the Lord when threatened? Because he believed that God could and would deliver him! *“This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”* Psalm 34:6 And here we see the progression of the faith rest life in solving problems. It begins with having an accurate knowledge of Bible Doctrine where we learn the mind of God. From this we find out many things about God, his character, integrity, nature, power and faithfulness. We also find out about his desire to help us and his promise to help us. We also find out that he wants us to go to him for help. So we believe this and what do we do? Well, if we really believe this, we will go to him for help in our prayers. And what do we see? **We see that the Lord answers our prayers and that he is good to us!** *“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”* Psalm 34:8

In Psalm 56:3 where David said that when he was afraid he would trust in God, *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”*, he used the word *batach* for **trust**. *Batach* had the idea of no longer being concerned about a problem. It had the idea of lying down on the ground, to stretch out on the ground, to lie down and be at rest; **to feel secure, to be unconcerned; to trust in someone (God) so that one has no concerns and is at rest**; to be secure. It denotes that a relationship exists, or a state of trust exists providing a sense of security and unconcern. A nation enters into a peace treaty (covenant) with a neighboring nation, now the people feel secure and at rest. They now live without concern next door to

their neighbors. While *batach* in its primary sense of **trust** means that you are looking to someone, depending on them, to provide your needs, to take care of you, protect you, etc., and because you know that they will, you no longer have any concern over the matter.

In Psalm 34:8 where David says blessed is the man that trusteth in God, “*O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that **trusteth** in him.*”, he uses the word *chasah*. Properly, *chasah* means to flee to take refuge. It has the idea that one is under some threat of danger, and he flees to something as a shelter or refuge for protection. The young run back to their mother; the badger to his hole; the animal to a cleft in a rock. One can flee to something in nature for protection, a hole in the ground, a cave, a high rock, a cleft in the rock, into the water, out of the water, into the air, etc.. One can flee to people; to one’s friends, one’s family, to society as a whole, or to a fort that people have built. One can flee to man made institutions: the government, government programs, community programs, the military, etc., but we are to flee to God. **It has the idea of fleeing from danger to something that you know will give you safety and protection.** The faith comes in where the individual believes that thing will protect him, or that person. And trust comes in where you are trusting in, relying upon that thing or person to protect you. So it is a metaphor for faith.

So *chasah* has the following ideas in it: 1) one is in a situation that poses a threat, (real or imagined), to the believer; 2) the believer is afraid; 3) he knows that *Yahweh* will protect him; 4) he flees from the situation to *Yahweh* for protection. *Yahweh* is his refuge. A variety of metaphors are borrowed from nature to express this action; but it means to run, to flee, to go to *Yahweh* for protection when threatened, or in danger. The threat or danger is not to be limited to physical threat only, but includes all threats. Whether threats to one’s soul, one’s body, one’s finances, one’s health, one’s church, one’s family, one’s nation, to one’s business or job, or to one’s emotions. Any threat, regardless of the category, is sufficient cause to run to God for protection. **So here we have not the idea of hoping or waiting, but motion! Where the believer is motivated to run to God for protection and safety.**

This gives us another perspective on David as he turned to the Lord for help. He didn’t merely trust him and call upon him, but he **ran** to him as one would run when facing imminent danger! But how many of us put off going to God thinking or hoping the problem will merely go away? Or if we do he’s the last thing on our list? What this tells us that when David had a problem he beat a path to God right away!

Once again we see the difference between David and Saul, other than the fact that David’s fear sprung out of his old sin nature when he wasn’t trusting the Lord and Saul’s was demonic in origin. We see how these two men handled the problem of their fears. Saul went after the path of conventional treatment to alleviate his problem of fear, while David ran to the only one who could give him true relief. He fled to God in faith and God always answered his prayers and honored his faith and delivered him.

May this motivate us all to living the faith rest life.

Pastor Mike