

Stewardship

5-Day Devotional - 2.1.26

Day 1

The Anointing and the Calling

Reading: 1 Samuel 10:1-9

Devotional:

God's anointing is not about ownership—it's about stewardship. When Samuel anointed Saul, he received everything needed to fulfill his calling. The same is true for you. When God calls you and equips you with His Spirit, He provides all you need for the journey ahead. But remember: the anointing comes with responsibility. You don't own your gifts, your position, or even your breath. Everything belongs to God, and you are simply managing what He's entrusted to you. Today, ask yourself: Am I stewarding God's gifts with humility and obedience, or have I begun to act like I own what He's given me? The difference between blessing and burden lies in how you answer that question.

Reflection:

Do I see my gifts, opportunities, and calling as something I own, or as something God has entrusted to me to steward with humility and obedience?

Day 2

The Danger of Impatience

Reading: 1 Samuel 13:8-14

Devotional:

Saul's downfall began with impatience. When Samuel delayed, Saul took matters into his own hands and offered the sacrifice himself—something he had no authority to do. How often do we do the same? God gives us a vision, a dream, a calling, but doesn't immediately provide the detailed plan. In our discomfort with waiting, we rush ahead, trying to force outcomes in our own strength. But the Bible repeatedly tells us to "wait on the Lord." Waiting isn't passive—it's active trust. It's believing that God's timing is perfect even when it doesn't align with our schedule. Today, identify one area where you've been rushing ahead of God. Commit to waiting for His direction, trusting that obedience in the waiting is better than sacrifice in the hurrying.

Reflection:

Where in my life am I tempted to rush ahead of God instead of trusting His timing, and what would obedience look like if I chose to wait?

Day 3

Selective Obedience is Disobedience

Reading: 1 Samuel 15:1-23

Devotional:

Saul thought he could edit God's instructions. God commanded him to destroy everything, but Saul kept what seemed valuable and destroyed only what he didn't want. When confronted, he claimed, "I have carried out the Lord's instructions." But partial obedience is complete disobedience. Samuel's response cuts to the heart: "To obey is better than sacrifice." We often negotiate with God, keeping what we want while offering Him the rest. We justify our selective obedience with good intentions or practical reasoning. But God doesn't want our edited version of His commands—He wants our wholehearted surrender. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area where you're practicing selective obedience. Confess it, release it, and choose full surrender over convenient compromise.

Reflection:

Is there any area where I am obeying God partially while holding back what I want to keep, and what step of full surrender is He asking of me?

Day 4

When the Anointing Leaves but the Crown Remains

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:14-23

Devotional:

The most dangerous place to live is successful without God's presence. Saul still wore the crown, still sat on the throne, still had the title—but the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him. He looked successful on the outside while being empty on the inside. This is the tragedy of living on past anointing or relying on position rather than presence. Success without God's Spirit is hollow. You can have the job, the family, the reputation, the ministry—but without His presence, you're just going through motions. The most miserable people are those who once walked closely with God but have drifted away, because they know what they're missing. Today, evaluate honestly: Do you have the crown but lack the anointing? Pursue His presence above all else.

Reflection:

Am I relying more on position, past experiences, or outward success than on daily dependence on God's presence?

Day 5

Protecting the Presence

Reading: Psalm 51:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Devotional:

David's greatest desire was to remain in God's presence. After his sin, he cried out, "Do not take your Holy Spirit from me." Unlike Saul, who protected his throne, David protected God's presence in his life. In the New Testament, believers have the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us permanently. But we can quench the Spirit through disobedience, neglect, or distraction. The Spirit doesn't leave, but He can be suppressed. What you feed grows; what you starve dies. Are you feeding your spirit through worship, obedience, and time in God's Word? Or are you starving it through busyness, compromise, and self-reliance? Today, commit to protecting God's presence in your life as fiercely as you protect your possessions. Stir up the gift within you. Stay under His covering. Make His presence your greatest treasure.

Reflection:

What habits in my life either protect or quench the work of the Holy Spirit, and what intentional change do I need to make to treasure His presence above all else?