

“GET RID OF THOSE CRUTCHES!”

1 Samuel 19-21

Last week we saw that soon after David’s great victory over Goliath, events took a downward turn. In all the uncertainty and pain that David experienced, God was pursuing a plan. He was preparing David to be the king of Israel. Ultimately, the key to David’s future and that of the nation would be his ability to trust in God alone, whatever the circumstances. David already had a remarkable faith. We saw this in his confrontation with Goliath. And yet we see times when he flip-flopped or vacillated in his faith. Clearly, David’s faith had to go deeper and become more consistent. Hence God needed to carry out further work in his life. And the process He puts David through is very specific. It is one you and I need to be fully aware of, because it is the same one many of us are going through right now or will go through in the future. In fact, no believer who wants to grow in faith and trust in God can avoid this process.

What process did God put David through that can help us be people of faith?

- Be aware of “crutches.”
- What are spiritual “crutches”?
- Why are “crutches” hazardous to our spiritual health?

- Recognize your “crutches.”

In 1 Samuel, chapters 19-21 we observe God working in David’s life to take away his “crutches.” Some of these are:

- Position, 19:10.
- Family, 10:11-17.
- Close spiritual support, 19:18; 20:1.
- Friendship, 20:42.
- Reputation, 21:11-15.
- Can you identify with one or more of these crutches? Why?

- Deal with your “crutches.”

If spiritual “crutches” are hazardous to our walk of faith, how can we cooperate with God to remove them?

- Determine what your “crutches” are.
- How can you find this out?
 - Determine to reject your “crutches.”
- How do you manage this practically speaking?
 - Determine to pursue God as the center of your life.
- “To lose a substitute is very painful, but it is also wonderfully beneficial.” Explain.
- Regarding this focus, how can others pray for you specifically, and you for them?