

The Spirit of the Lord

1 Samuel 16

Introduction:

"Spirit of the Lord" - Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 61:1; Numbers 11:25; 27:16-18;
Judges 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13-16; 1 Samuel 10:6

Summary: Postmodernism teaches that all points of view are equal, they each deserve to be respected and no point of view is the only point of view. That is simply not true!

1 Samuel 16:1-13 - What God Sees

Precept: God sees things the way they should be seen; God sees the heart. This Hebrew word, 'heart' points to 'one's thoughts, emotions and intents'.

Summary: "A man after God's own heart" means "a man of God's own choosing, a man that God has set his heart on".

1 Samuel 16:14-23 - What Man Perceives

Question: Do I, do we, understand the nature of influences? Do I, do we, understand the nature of lost influences?

Precept: This story points me to one area where influence is universal; music.

Summary: As a child and young person I choose to stay out of environments that are void of God's influence, of the influence of the Holy Spirit. As a mature Christian adult I choose to enter such environments when God directs me; otherwise I choose to stay away.

Conclusion: God sees others properly and if we are influenced by God and the beam in our own eyes is addressed we can see things the way God sees them. Samuel, had to learn this lesson and so do each of us.

There is nothing special about a person who can see things that others fail to see. Thank God that there are such people around us, that we can turn to for spiritual insight and guidance—but God gets the credit.

It is very likely that David was naïve about Saul's inner struggles, but he did bring something to Saul's court that was valuable; he was a stabilizing influence, not only with his music but also with his attitude such that Saul "loved David" and we should understand this Hebrew phrase to mean that he really liked David, he favored him. Never dismiss the simple influence of the least of God's children—God can use it for his glory.

There are people that God has chosen and gifted, and their great temptation is to take credit for and to use their gifts for their own enrichment. This is very misguided. We should recognize what God has done in someone but not elevate them, rather thank God for his blessing on us through them and pray for them that God continues to rule their lives.