

1 Samuel: Standing Strong in Trying Times

Jesse Berthold / July 9, 2025

Wednesday Evening Service

1 Samuel: Standing Strong in Trying Times!

1 Samuel 10:24–27 (NKJV)

24 And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen, that *there is* no one like him among all the people?”

So all the people shouted and said, “Long live the king!”

25 Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote *it* in a book and laid *it* up before the Lord. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant *men* went with him, whose hearts God had touched.

27 But some rebels said, “How can this man save us?” So they despised him, and brought him no presents. **But he held his peace.**

We can see that Saul started with great promise...

- **Chosen and anointed by God**
- **Filled with the Holy Spirit**
- **Supported by a great man of God**
- **Given gifts appropriate to royalty**
- **Enthusiastically supported by most all the nation**
- **Surrounded by valiant men, men whose hearts God had touched.**
- **Wise enough to not regard every doubter or critic as an enemy**

1 Samuel 11:1(NKJV)

Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, **“Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you.”**

Verse 1b... “Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you.”

Why would they do such a thing?

- They felt that this was their only hope of survival...

Verse 2... And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, “***On this condition I will make a covenant with you, that I may put out all your right eyes, and bring reproach on all Israel.***”

Nahash made this demand for many reasons...

- First: It was to glorify himself by humiliating the men of Jabesh Gilead and all of Israel.
- Second: It would make the men of Gilead unable to fight effectively in battle.

How does Satan still works today to try and make us his servants and to worship him?

FIRST: Satan attacks us, but he cannot do anything against us without our agreement...

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is faithful*, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also **make the way of escape**, that you may be able to bear *it*.

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**

SECOND: Satan wants us to serve and worship him, and he will do anything that he can to attempt to intimidate us into giving in to him.

In what ways does Satan try to intimidate us to worship and serve him?

FIRST: Through Fear

1 Peter 5:8–9 (NKJV) “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith...”

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NLT) “14 Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. 15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.”

SECOND: Through Persecution and Suffering

Revelation 2:9–10 (NLT)

9 “I know about your suffering and your poverty—but you are rich! I know the blasphemy of those opposing you. They say they are Jews, but they are not, because their synagogue belongs to Satan. 10 **Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil** will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 12:17 (NLT)

17 And the dragon was angry at the woman and declared war against the rest of her children—all who keep God’s commandments and maintain their testimony for Jesus.

What can we do?

FIRST: We can resist the devil and take authority.

James 4:7–10 (NKJV)

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

SECOND: We can put on the full armor of God

Ephesians 6:10–13 (NLT)

10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

THIRD: We can embrace the truth

2 Timothy 1:6–7 (NKJV)

6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV)

17 No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness *is* from Me,” Says the Lord.

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)

“4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...”