changed, for he also prophesied.

d. Presence of God.

The "hill of God" is a geographical locating of events, but it is also the indication that God is present. Here is a true mountain top experience!

e. Persistence of Philistines.

Far too many have considered the proofs of the will of God as immunizing one from the enemy. The positive aspects of His will are associated with the one fox which is always ready to spoil the vine—Satan and his hosts.

Conclusion

Someone says: "But how do you know these are proofs of the will of God?" One feels quite certain that he is dealing here with verities which cannot be questioned on the basis of what v. 7 records. Hear the Word of God: "God is with thee." In such a case, Saul is now able to "do as occasion serve thee." Surely, this is the proof of the will of God. When the Lord affirms that we have Him with us and that we are charged with the privilege to "do as occasion serve thee," we are certain that the foundations for displaying His energy and wisdom have been carefully laid.

Do you have proofs for God's will in the life you are living?

Notes:

THE BOOK OF FIRST SAMUEL

"Proof of the Will of God"
1 Samuel 10:1-7

Introduction

1. How sweet is the will of God—IF you know it and are sure of it!

2. One of the largest challenges to any child of God is just here. To be sure that he is in the will of God and enjoying the very best which the Lord has for him.

3. Is it possible to know this? Are there hands in the Word of God to point out the path of His own choosing with clarity and assurance? To answer these questions is the purpose of this study.

4. Take to your own heart the following elements in the story of Saul as pointers for proofs of His will.


Let's not trifle with this matter of the will of God. If it is not thoroughly grounded in the Word of God—where are we? The evidence of God's Word here is present:-

a. The vial of oil.

From very early times (Judges 9:8), the pouring of oil upon one was his investiture with a royal office. It was God's Word to do it this way (cf. 16:13).

b. The kiss of Samuel.

As God's prophet, the kiss was a notation of congratulations and respect. The Word was being demonstrated.

c. The question to Saul.

Here is a pointed item. In effect—"has not God said...?" The Word of God is the ground of all activity!

2. THE DEATH OF SELF v. 2.

Next to the Word of God comes the concern for the
man himself. What are his feelings? That there must be a refusal of self is illustrated by:-

a. The tomb of Rachel.
Here is a type of the Word of God speaking of the flesh. Death must pass upon the excellance of the flesh. If one can trace elements of self desire, he must admit that the knowledge of God's will may be dimmed.

b. The location of asses.
Whereas the finding of these animals was of prime importance at one juncture in the life of Saul, now they are of an inferior consideration. They are found in order that the focus of attention may be elsewhere. Past activities must be subordinate to factors of higher concern! The one who exalts his own interests above God's will will find little comfort in the knowledge of His will.

c. The concern for Saul.
Here is a big item. To refuse self and self interests—including past activities—one is likely to feel lonely. The truth of the matter is that God reminds one that he is the object of infinite love! It is a glorious uplift to be in the spotlight of His affection!

3. THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD. vv. 3, 4.
There is another forward step. From the Word of God and the death of self, one is led to genuine fellowship with God. This is noted by:-

a. The towns mentioned.
Two geographical places are listed: Tabor and Bethel. The former is variously rendered as height, broken, or purpose. It is the oak of Tabor and not the plain, as the original affirms. Bethel means the "house of God." It was "to God" that the three men went and that in His "house." One goes to places like these because he yearns for God!

b. The sacrifices carried.
A variety of items are listed here and each one is significant. The kids remind one of the sin offering; the bread of communion; the wine of joy. All are related to redemption and worship. No one is concerned for these if He is not their attraction.

c. The food provided.
That a portion of the sacrifice is given to Saul is evidence of sharing or communion. One cannot read with heart fullness these verses without being impressed with the deep impact of a reaching out for God and a desire for His holy fellowship!

4. THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT vv. 5-6
The little phrases of the Word are a delight. Consider the phrase "after that" in v. 5. Chronologically our text could not show more pertinently proofs of His will; first the Word, then self negation, next communion with God, and "after that" the Spirit's power! How is this suggested? Look:-

a. Prophecy of men.
A company of prophets means men who speak out for God. Men who predict His Word. This is power from God.

b. Praise of the Spirit.
A variety of instruments are mentioned to show that the exhilarating joy of the Spirit was in attendance. Praise is there when His power is present.

c. Promotion of Saul.
A changed man. That takes the power of God's Spirit. This is not natural. The world claims it can be done by personal effort; God states that this is not a psychological innovation, but a miracle of His Spirit. Reformation and regeneration are distinct. So are regeneration and control of the Spirit! Even Saul's tongue was