
SAMUEL'S PROGRESS

Growing In Favor With God And Man

SONGS
 DELIVERANCE MINISTRY.ORG
PO Box 804 Kenosha, WI 53141 Psalm 32:7

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Growing In Favor With God And Man

TEXT:	1Samuel 2&3
KEY VERSE:	1Samuel 3:20

Samuel might have been the greatest prophet in Israel's history. God gave Samuel such influence, that when he came to a city, they would send a runner out to ask him, "Is thy mission peace?" So, people knew that if he came with a message of God's judgment, they were in trouble. Samuel spoke the words of God faithfully, and God made those words come to pass.

"the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground." 1 Samuel 3: 19

How did his amazing connection to God come about?

The story:

Hannah was disgraced. She could not get pregnant. In her days, a woman was honored by giving her husband a son. So, Hannah promised God that if he would give her a son, she would give him back to him all his life.


She had that son; and after he was weaned, she took him to the temple to live, and serve God there. He served God and Eli the priest faithfully. So, God promoted him...

1. He served God by humbly serving God's man. 1 Samuel 2:11
"before Eli, the priest"
 - Samuel understood that he was *obeying* Eli, but he was *serving* God.
 - God can promote those who will willingly submit to the authority He places over them.
2. He served God directly. 1 Samuel 2: 11
"girded with a linen ephod"

This was the "official" uniform of a priest, yet he was honored to be wearing it being a child.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 1 Peter 5:6

- He understood that his part was to faithfully fulfill his responsibilities to God. He sought only to be faithful to God, not to be famous. That is up to God.
3. He continued to "grow before the Lord." 1 Samuel 2: 21
 - a. Humility: he did not get impressed with himself because he had an ephod.
 - b. He allowed God to continue to exalt him because he just kept ministering - serving. He fulfilled his responsibilities faithfully, understanding that he was serving God.
 4. His growth before God brought him favor with people.
 - a. When we grow with God, we grow in his favor.
 - b. When he favors us, he gives us influence over people.



He did not get
impressed with
himself because
he had an
ephod.

c. In that order, God's blessing remains.

* Remember, Samuel had not heard God's voice yet. Eli was God's voice to him.

5. He **still** served Eli. 1 Samuel 3: 1
 - a. This is progression; he did not abandon his first responsibilities; he added the new ones.
 - b. We should not leave what God has given us to do until **He** promotes us to something greater.
6. God began to give Samuel insight that others did not have. 1 Samuel 3:1-14
 - a. "the word of the Lord was precious," and "there was no open vision;" but Samuel received **both**.
 - b. because he was attentive to Eli's call, he heard God's.

"Speak; for thy servant heareth," became the theme of Samuel's life.

7. His vision gave him greater answerability. 1 Samuel 3: 11, 15-18
 - a. This was a **heavy message** for a kid to deliver to the high priest!
 - b. He was faithful. "Samuel told him every whit;" even though he was afraid. 1 Samuel 3: 15
 - c. Never lose sight of the One you serve.
8. Samuel **kept** growing, and God himself validated him as his servant. 1 Samuel 3: 19
 - a. "Did let none of his words fall to the ground," meant, when he spoke folks listened, because they knew he spoke for God.
 - b. Samuel did not send out brochures, or open a Facebook page, he let God determine who listened.
9. Everyone knew that the word of the Lord was with Samuel. 1 Samuel 3: 20
 - a. Dan was extreme north; Beer-Sheba was extreme south.
 - b. If we will just walk close to God and be faithful; he will spread our influence as far as **he** needs it.
 - c. He will not waste the wisdom he invests in you.
10. One, obedient kid brought God back to his people. 1 Samuel 3: 21, 4: 1
 - a. **This** is what it is all about; bring God and people together.
 - b. When your entire ambition is to know and hear him, God will use you to influence others to know and hear him. Matthew 22: 36-40

I do not know how many times I have spoken those words, "I'm listening." Every time, he has spoken. I remember the day, as a teenager I read, "And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend."¹ I said, "I want that. You said you are no respecter of persons, so if you would speak to Moses like that, then you would speak to me like that."

And it shall come to pass afterward,

*that I will pour out my spirit upon **all flesh**;*

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

your old men shall dream dreams,

your young men shall see visions:

And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids

in those days will I pour out my spirit.

¹ Exodus 33:11

And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth,

blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood,

before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:

for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance,

as the LORD hath said,

and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Joel 2:28-32

DO YOU WANT IN ON SOME OF THAT?

Or are you gonna let some theologian tell you that is not for today?²

Do:

1. Get up every day and tell God that you are listening.
2. Listen.
3. Do what he tells you to do that day.
4. Rinse and repeat.

² Acts 2:16-21