

Book of Hebrews Part 23: 6:4-6; King Saul's Sin and Failed Repentance (3/16/2019)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6sObgTSOMs> or <https://rumble.com/embed/vbcc9v/?pub=4>.

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

If you remember in our last message, we broke into some new territory and were abruptly confronted with what I would call one of the most terrifying passages in all of Scripture. It is this passage right here Hebrews 6:4-6—⁴ **For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame** (emphasis added).

Honestly, this is chilling. This is one of those passages where the first time you're acquainted with it, you just don't run past it. You stop dead in your tracks, and it hits you hard with the reality of what's being conveyed here. The reality of the weight of sin begins to resonate in your heart. It is a very, very powerful thing.

Today, we are going to continue to remove layers of understanding in this passage. We want to ensure that we are extrapolating exactly what the writer intended for us to extrapolate, and that we don't get heavy in a way that we're not supposed to. In other words, we want to take exactly what is there and what is not there we don't want to acknowledge, because when people do that, they get involved in it. You can go to one extreme or another. You can totally flip passages on their head and misdirect them. And so, we are going to continue to peel back layers of understanding.

What I want to do is kick off today by taking you to Peter's second epistle. He goes through this passage in chapter 2 that literally echoes exactly what is being conveyed here. Again, by going to this passage, we're going to gain some perspective of what is being communicated.

2 Peter 2:1—**But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the LORD who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction** (emphasis added).

I want to stop. **There will be false teachers** [not maybe]; **there will be false teachers among you**. Think about this. **Among you** is in the inner sanctum of the community, the ecclesia of the church.

This is terrifying, and Peter knows this is coming. He knows this is imminent. They're going to come into the inner sanctum of the body of the Messiah. What are they going to do? **Secretly bring in destructive heresies.**

This is what they're going to do. Notice these heresies coming in are covert. It's not open. People are not sounding the shofar nor sounding the alarms. It is secret, and what does that tell you? It tells you it's going to take root?

These are heresies that take you away from the word of God, from His Commandments, and from His truth. They come in and they to start being accepted in the church. Peter warns of this—**even denying the LORD who bought them and bring on themselves swift destruction.**

Now there's more I want to share here. But before we do that, I want to take you to the Epistle of Jude. The reason I want to take you there, for those of you who are consider yourselves avid scholars and students of the Word, you know what I'm about to say. The books of 2 Peter and the Epistle of Jude are a mirror reflection of one another to a degree. If you have read 2 Peter, I can tell you, you know the contents of Jude. If you've read Jude, in essence, you have read 2 Peter. I liken it to this; Peter and Jude were sitting at a table, discussing the issues of the church and of the day, and what they want to do. Literally, in this discussion, they say we should each write a letter to our brethren and send it out. It is so close and so parallel it was like they were sitting at the same table and each one was drafted right there on the spot. There is almost a mirror reflection. So, they talk about the same things. They use the same terminology and the same structure.

But, here is the thing. Jude is conveying exactly what Peter is conveying; but the terminology he uses is bold. It reveals something deeper of where Peter is coming from and Peter's intent. So, I just want to briefly take you there, and he says Jude 1:4— **For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only LORD God and our LORD Jesus Christ** (emphasis added).

Look at 2 Peter 2:1— **But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the LORD who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction** (emphasis added).

Now, does this sound familiar? Peter just said these certain men would come in—**who will secretly bring in destructive heresies.** This is Jude saying the same thing—**certain man have crept in unnoticed.** They are in the church, and nobody's taking notice. They—**turn the grace of God into lewdness.** Jude gives us some insight as to what is happening. These heresies we're talking about are what Jude tells us are going to be perverting the grace of God. This is the expense. They're going to be utilizing God's mercy and God's grace. By doing so, they're going to lead people astray.

Now, that is a scary thought, because we all know God's grace is true. Yeshua is that grace, but there's a perversion happening, and that is where the seduction is. That is also how you can lead these people who are in the church astray. This is terrifying!

So, Jude says—**who turned grace of God into lewdness and deny the only LORD God and our LORD the Messiah Yeshua** (Jude 1:4). Jude says the same thing Peter says.

Going back to 2 Peter 2:1 it states these false teachers are going to secretly bring in destructive heresies, and then he's going to go on and say this in 2 Peter 2:2—**And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed** (emphasis added).

I hate it when I read that. I cringe every time I see this. Unfortunately, Peter's not the only one who uses this descriptor of believers. He is not talking about many in the world. Many **believers** are going to follow the destructive ways. Yeshua, in Matthew 7, says there will be all those Christians sitting in front of Him crying out, LORD, LORD. He tells us there will be many crying out. That is a hard thought to deal with because when you start looking around at all the believers in Yeshua, the Christians, and as you become more acquainted with all these warnings, in your mind, you are calculating, who's staying and who's going to be destroyed. Discerning who is who, because we know the church has tares in it. There are wheat and tares in the church. It is a frightening concept.

2 Peter 2:18—**For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error** (emphasis added). I want you think about—**great swelling words**. In other words, their message is profound. It makes a mark. There's an impact. It's well received, but Peter is telling us it is total vanity. It's worthless; it is of no value whatsoever. It's complete emptiness.

Now listen to this part, because this is important. How are these false teachers getting into the inner sanctum of the church? How are they taking away awesome believers of Yeshua? How are they taking them out right there? They are luring through the lust of the flesh. In other words, they are coming in and giving powerful and wonderful messages that do not appeal to the spirit of God, but instead appeal to your fleshly desires and the things that your flesh wants to hear. This is marketing 101: tell the people what they want to hear and they will bite every single time. This is so terrifying!

This is how they're doing it. Let us be honest. You know as you sit in those chairs, every one of us has struggles. God forbid, a pastor or preacher comes up and pats you on the back and tells you, "It's okay in your struggles. Don't worry about it. God's grace will cover it." He strengthens the hands that have been and are supposed to tremble before God. He lifts them up and tells them, "You want peace? Remember you are under grace and can therefore sin without consequence." By doing that, they are stripping them of the conviction of the Holy Spirit, they don't embrace it, and so they come in with these messages. They are very persuasive, because that's what your flesh wants to hear. I don't have to stop doing x, y, z because God still loves me. That's too hard to follow God's commands. I don't want to do that. So, this is what happens.

Now, listen to what he says in 2 Peter 2:19—**While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage** (emphasis added).

The verse says—**they promise them liberty**. So, they're coming in; they're appealing to your flesh; they're telling them, "It's okay if you don't keep these Commandments of God. It's okay if you do this. No harm is going to come to you." They are promising liberty. This is the catapult leading people off the edge of the cliff. Grace! Freedom! Liberty!

You know, I can't help but think of Irenaeus who lived in the second century during the days of Marcion. He saw what was happening to the faith, and he said certain men have come on the scene and had exaggerated the mercy of God. Yet they say nothing about judgment.

Exaggerating the mercy is exactly what Peter is dealing with. He is saying this is their power by which they are working. This is the persuasion. It's the freedom. It's the grace.

I want to take you to Jeremiah just briefly before we finish this. Jeremiah 7:8-10—⁸ **Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. ⁹Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know ¹⁰and then come stand before Me in this house which is called by My name and say, **We are delivered to do all these abominations:**** (emphasis added).

You know, I prefer other translations that say, “We are safe. It is okay for us to do this.” No, it is not. Look at what he's saying here. You have men and women going to the temple to praise the LORD. This is not about their walking away from their faith. No. No. This is, “I'm rejoicing in what the LORD has done for me. It's okay. I am under grace. I'm having this freedom, so I can come to the house and can worship Him, even though I'm not walking with Him.”

This is terrifying! The things that Peter is telling us, and the things the writer of Hebrews is writing to his own brothers, is not new. When you're a Jew living in the first century, you are built upon remembering what God did for your forefathers. He took them out of Egypt. He delivered them. He gave them this land, and it's with that reality we have been delivered. So we think, “We're okay. It doesn't matter if we're doing these things, because God has delivered us. We are children of Abraham.”

Today, if people say, “Don't worry. Christ has set you free.” Christ is the only way to be set free. There's no debate about it, but you need to think about how perverse it is to create teachings utilizing the holy name of Yeshua and the sacrifice He made giving His life for us to perpetuate sin, rebellion, and disobedience. God have mercy on our souls!

2 Peter 2:19—**While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage** (emphasis added). Here these false prophets and teachers come out promising them liberty, and what are they giving them? They bring them into bondage, which is the exact opposite thing. These are lies and deceptions. They're getting the exact opposite. They're not getting freedom. They're not embracing the grace of God. They're rejecting it.

2 Peter 2:20—**For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the LORD and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning** (emphasis added). Now think about that statement for a second because this is a mirror reflection of what the writer of Hebrews said in chapter 6 – **it is impossible if they fall away to renew them again to repentance.** It's impossible. You can't do it.

Listen to what Peter says in 2 Peter 2:20—**they are entangled in them and overcome.** He doesn't say they've been set free. They are overcome. **The latter end is worse for them than at the beginning.**

2 Peter 2:21-22—²¹ **For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire"** (emphasis added).

Okay, how many of you have owned dogs? As a former dog owner, I know that dogs vomit. It is one thing that I am not okay with. My last animal was a high-maintenance one. I can remember opening the

door and rushing her out. You are thinking, “No, not in the house.” My wife hates that, and I don't work well with that. Okay I am saying, “Get out of the house! Get out of the house!” I won't forget this. So, the dog just throws up, and you can see that something inside her made her sick. There was something in her making her sick, and when she threw up, you knew she was better. She was almost like a smiling dog, but then she turns and circles back.

At that point I'm thinking, “Not on my watch. We do not do that here.” I go grab her and say, “No, you're going in the house.” Why is the dog going that? Who does that? You might be different, but I can't watch that. I cannot watch a dog eat its vomit. It is the nastiest thing. It makes me want to hurl.

Think, as we go back to these sins, how it makes the LORD feel after Yeshua paid the dearest price, and then you're returning to these sins. Imagine that the next time you see a dog eating it. Stop and watch it and think about it if you can. Stop and watch it and think about the fact this is how God sees us. I intervene, I would not let it happen. I don't want it to happen.

Think about sin. It gets inside of us before we come into the faith of Yeshua. Sin is inside of us, and it makes us sick. Through the gospel, you vomit out that which makes you sick. You vomit out the lust; you vomit out the flesh; you vomit out covetousness and idolatry and all this focus on the world. You vomit out your bitterness and anger; you vomit out your addictions. You vomit. You are to vomit those things out. God forbid, we are dogs. It is a very term that is used throughout Scripture, both Old and New Testament, to refer to Gentiles who go back and eat that vomit.

One of the tricky ways the enemy works on us to get us to accept things is he twists our perception. He tells us, “It is not that bad. Focus on the liberty here. Do not worry about what you're walking in; do not worry what you're eating on your plate; just look at this liberty and grace over here.” In truth, you're not focused on that liberty and grace. It's all a distraction so that you can feed on sin. It is absolutely demonic.

All right. So, as we begin to look at this writing in Hebrews chapter 6 and what he is conveying, this gives us an amazing perception. What is being described here are dogs returning to their vomit. When he says—if they fall away to renew them again, to repent—who are we talking about? The dogs who have returned to their vomit.

Now, I want to take this discussion to another level. I want to peel back another layer of understanding. Instead of just having this concept, I want to make this tangible. I want to give you a living example where we can see what the writer of Hebrews is talking about. I want to see it in action.

For some of us, the way we learn best is hands-on. Don't give me a sheet that tells me how to do it. Just tell me what to do. Let my hands touch it. Let me go through this because that's how we learn better. We get better perspective. We start learning the intricacies of whatever event we're dealing with. I want to do that right now. I want to give you a living example of this because this is going to give you a much deeper perspective of what the writer is getting at.

I want to take you to the life of King Saul because there are things about him you need to know. There are things that happen to him. There are things that he did. They all play a part in understanding this context.

Going to I Samuel 9:15-16—**Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying, ¹⁶ "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to me"** (emphasis added).

Now, what I want you to recognize first and foremost is Saul, as we call him today King Saul, was called by God. There was a supernatural calling. What you need to understand is this; as we go through the life of King Saul, we find there are parallels to every believer's life starting with his calling. Every single one of you who confessed Yeshua as the Messiah for salvation, for forgiveness of sins, understand that was a supernatural calling. Yeshua Himself says in John chapter 6—**No one can come to Me unless My Father who sent Me draws him**. How does He draw them? He draws him through the gospel; the Father draws people to His son through the gospel message. It is a supernatural calling.

The first thing I want you to recognize is there is a supernatural calling upon Saul's life. The second thing you need to see is Saul is being called to be anointed, as king, for a purpose. He's being called to deliver Israel; to save the LORD's people. Now we see this is manifested as we get to 1 Samuel 10:1—**Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"** (Emphasis added).

Now notice Samuel doesn't say, "Now I have anointed you with the oil." He gives the glory to God. He tells them it is the LORD who has called for this. The LORD has anointed you King over Israel. This is a physical anointing with oil, but I want you to understand that it didn't end there. Saul received another anointing, and we read this in I Samuel 10:10—**When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them** (emphasis added).

There was another anointing, and then it was told to Samuel that's what was going to happen. It is all part of God's plan to anoint Saul with the Holy Spirit. Think about the degree he manifests the power of the Holy Spirit; Saul begins prophesying. In fact, it was so jarring to the people of the day, a proverb went out saying—**Is Saul among the prophets?** People were astounded that he was prophesying through the power of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We look at these believers being talked about in Hebrews chapter 6, and these are awesome believers. They've tasted the heavenly gift; they are partakers of the Holy Spirit and tasted the good word of God. Saul fits all of these; this is Saul. This is the life of Saul. He has this special anointing; he has a relationship with the Living God and there is intimacy. This is authentic; it is not fake: It is not a sham; it is not a game.

Problems come in as things begin to develop in Saul's life. Adversity hits. As you jump ahead to chapter 13, you read the Philistines are amassing their armies for war against Israel, and it is interesting how the Bible utilizes the text by stating they were as the sand which is by the sea. In other words, they were innumerable. You couldn't even count the people because they were that intimidating.

This is what is coming, and Saul sees this. He is in Gilgal, and he's waiting. He's looking at this situation. He feels he's going to die. If that isn't bad enough, think about being in King Saul's position. He is seeing the greatest army he had ever seen in his life amass against him to kill him and gut the people of Israel.

Then look at Saul's own brothers and what are they doing? They're running for their lives. They're literally hiding in caves and holes in the earth and rocks. They're totally disbanding from him. So, he's

looking at this massive army. Everyone around him is fleeing from him. This is terror. The weight of fear is bearing down on him.

Now, you can feel he's being pressured as you go through the story. If that weren't enough, Samuel had commanded Saul do nothing, "Until I come to you. When I come to you, I will sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings, and I will tell you what to do."

Saul is looking around; he's looking at the army. Everyone is leaving him; the situation is precarious, and Samuel is nowhere to be found, "Samuel told me he would come to me in the appointed day, and he's not here." What does Saul do? He offers the sacrifice without Samuel being there.

Well, how did that go? I Samuel 13:11—**And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, ¹²then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering"** (emphasis added).

Saul said—I felt compelled and offered a burnt offering. I'm going to tell you straight up, no other story in Scripture has put more of the fear of God into me than this one. Nothing has caused me to tremble more; nothing has put me on my knees more than this story. It is frightening! How many of you have made decisions when you felt the pressure, and you were feeling the heat of that, and you went with the dictates of your own heart rather than with the word of God and with His Commandments?

That is what Saul just did; he felt it. It gets far more deceptive than just trying to go through the story and read these words on a page. You need to put yourself in this context where he was. What did he do? He offered an offering to God to honor God. This is what he was doing, and it would seem very right to do in his position. The only way you would know it's not is he had to compromise the commandment of God to make that happen? That's the frightening thing about it. How often are we justifying our actions but are unwilling to recognize we did it at the expense of God's Commandments.

This is going to get more terrifying as we continue. I Samuel 13:13—**And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever (emphasis added).**

Samuel rebukes him, and he specifically goes after the notion of, "You have not kept His commandment. You have not done this." Now, Saul is going to be given another commandment. That commandment is this, Saul you need to go and destroy the Amalekites; you need to destroy everything, and God is very explicit at what he is supposed to do. He's not just supposed to destroy the Amalekites themselves; all the animals are to be destroyed; every single last one of them. This is a very explicit commandment.

So now jumping ahead to I Samuel 15:10-11—¹⁰ **Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹ "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments."** And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night (emphasis added).

I want to stop here. The fact that this is the LORD speaking to Samuel that He greatly regrets He has set up Saul as king. One of the first times we see this word used in the Bible is in Genesis 6 where the word is translated typically as sorry, as in I am sorry that I have made man on the earth. You see, when the

LORD is sorry, when He regrets, what comes next is judgment and total destruction. This is where you cut off from Him. I know how this is going to end because of what the LORD says. The phrase—I greatly regret—in Hebrew is נָחַם (*nacham*). He regrets; He is sorry He has set up Saul as king. Why? Because Saul—has turned back from following Me.

When Yeshua calls us into the kingdom, He tells us to “Follow Me.” I love that call to the disciples, “Come and follow Me.” That means leave everything else. You look at Me; everything I tell you, that is what you do, no matter what else is going on. So here he turned back. The LORD is telling Samuel that He's upset with Saul in that Saul has turned back from following Him—He has not performed My commandments.

So, what does it mean to turn your back on God? We have talked about it multiple times in this series. It means you stop keeping His commandments.

You know, people get irritated with me because I like to talk about the commandments of God all the time. This is what we are supposed to do. We're supposed to meditate on them. We're supposed to talk of them when we sit in the house, when you walk by the way, when we lie down, when we rise up. It is supposed to permeate out of the cells of our body. They are supposed to come forth from my mouth. This is what is supposed to happen.

Saul has not kept His commandments. It grieves Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. This is the other thing in which I want you to see the context. This is why it is so frightening and painful to read this.

One of the greatest prophets that ever lived is mourning. He loves Saul. This is why I grapple with this, and it is why the story has absolutely stripped layers of filth off of me. Then I think about how many Christians we know who we are so close to. These are people we love? Are we going to fall to our knees mourning because they have rejected the LORD, and the LORD has rejected them? In a scarier version, how many people do you know who are going to fall weeping for you because you've turned your back on God?

Moving to I Samuel 15:13—Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD" (emphasis added).

The most terrifying part of the story is right here. God is regretting ever setting Saul up as King and ever bringing him into His kingdom to save His people. In His mind, God says, “You're an anathema to Me.”

So Saul is rejoicing in the LORD. He is rejoicing before one of the Godliest men that has ever lived, Samuel. He's excited to meet him because in Saul's mind he has kept the commandment of the LORD. I can hear the echoes in Matthew 7 of all those who are crying out to Yeshua saying, “LORD, LORD don't you know us? We cast out demons? We did many mighty works in your name, and we prophesied. Let us in; what is going on here?” Saul is of that very nature. He is overjoyed. Talk about a delusion. He has no idea. He's honoring the LORD. He literally thinks, “The LORD and I are okay; we are walking with one another. I have paid His name homage.” This is absolutely terrifying.

So how does Samuel respond? I Samuel 15:14—But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" Samuel is saying, “Really Saul? Then why

am I hearing the lowing of oxen? They are supposed to be dead. The commandment was to kill all of them.”

This gets crazier as we listen to Saul. Samuel rebukes Saul for breaking the commandment of God. How does Saul respond? I Samuel 15:15— **And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed"** (emphasis added).

Saul said, “Samuel, you don't understand. We have done more than honor the LORD. We spared the best. We want to honor Him. God gave us victory. He deserves our best does He not? So, we gave the best of what we had.”

This is where we can fall into deceptive thinking, “I'm going to honor God with everything I have,” but it is according to your own heart. It's at the expense of His word. It's at the expense of God's commandments.

How does this go over? I Samuel 15:16—**Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on." ¹⁷ So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"**

Now, this is an amazing thing because Samuel is reminding him of his holy calling; what he was supposed to be doing for the people of Israel; what God had done for Him.

I Samuel 15:18-20—¹⁸ **Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'** ¹⁹ **Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"** ²⁰ **And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites"** (emphasis added).

You cannot make this up. Twice he comes and rebukes Saul, and Saul will not receive it. Why? Because Saul believes he has obeyed the voice of the LORD. He's debating with the prophet Samuel, “You don't understand Samuel; you are not getting it. I have honored the LORD with everything.”

Samuel goes on in I Samuel 15:21—**But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal**” (emphasis added). So this made perfect sense. He has come out to justify his position. His rationale seems right. Don't you understand Samuel? I am honoring the living God.

I Samuel 15:22— **So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams** (emphasis added).

Think about what is being said here; to obey is better than for you to follow the LORD in a way you see fit. We dismiss what God is asking. We need to submit and do what He says. As parents, you tell your kid to do something you want them to do, then, they come back and say, “I did this and that, but I didn't do what you asked.” They are proud because they went through all the work and this happens. You say, “I asked you to take out the garbage, but instead you cleaned the garage. That is not what I asked. It is

wonderful you did that, but you did not do what I asked you.” All God wants from us is simply to obey His voice, and it is so hard because we think we have a better way. We have a better way in our hearts, our flesh.

I Samuel 15:23—**For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king**” (emphasis added). What a frightening statement when you serve God in a manner you see fit at the expense of the commandment of God. As a result, you're compared to a witch, the archenemy of Yeshua, and you're compared to those that worship false gods. That is who you are when you go into rebellion, but Satan doesn't want you to see that. He will paint a different perspective. He will paint the beautiful love, grace, and mercy picture. He will tell you, “It is fine; do not worry about that. God does not care about these things. Did God say you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

That is a lie from the pit of Hell, and there are various lies the enemy tells you individually in your life on a day-to-day basis. He is trying to get you to compromise your faith. This is a promise; if you reject God's word, He is going to reject you. You can profess your faith in Christ till the cows come home. If you do not do what Yeshua says, you're not His disciple. It's that simple. This is a promise.

I Samuel 15:24—**Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice** (emphasis added).

Saul say—I **have sinned**. Finally! He's been rebuked multiple times, but he would not admit his wrong. Samuel finally won this one. Saul confesses he sinned—I **have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words**. Why? **Because I feared the people and obeyed their voice**. This is horizontal faith. He stopped looking down at the word of God when in reality you need to look vertically. You need to look straight up and down. If you are not looking down at the word. You need to be looking up at Yeshua.

That's the faith. I need to have my eyes set on the kingdom of the Living God who is coming back. However, when Saul felt the pressure pounding down upon him saying, “No Saul. We are not going to kill. We have a better way. We need to sacrifice the best by honoring God. Did not our God give us victory?” I mean, I could almost hear the discussions happening, “If God gave us victory, why is it that we're not going to sacrifice to Him? Does He not love these things?”

Do you see the deception? This is where they are at. Saul feared the people. I am going to tell you right now, I would say you could talk about the lust of the flesh and the various sins that lead you astray such as fear and discouragement. The devil utilizes them. Fear is such a powerful weapon Satan uses to get you to compromise what you are supposed to do. He uses fear to get you to not speak up when you're supposed to tell somebody about Yeshua. He puts fear in you so you are worried about what they're going to think.

That is a reality when you are living in this sick, twisted, and perverted generation we are living in. No one wants to say anything. The Christians have been put in the closet, and no one wants to say anything, because it might be offensive. Someone might be offended, and it might lead to an altercation.

Fear should not control the gospel. Fear is not supposed to do that. If fear is controlling you, Yeshua is not in you. **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.** (I John 4:4) If Yeshua is living in us, we will not fall. We will not cater to these things. We will rise up. This is a reality.

I Samuel 15:25-26—²⁵ **Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.** ²⁶ **But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel"** (emphasis added).

I want to stop because it is important to see how Saul reacts. Do not think for a moment he is all repentant. The one he is asking forgiveness from is not God. It is Samuel. Do you recognize this? This is imperative to understand the whole context of what's going on. He says to Samuel—**Please pardon my sin.** Saul doesn't drop to his knees to the God of Israel and say 'The God of my fathers have mercy on my soul. I sinned against you.' There was no brokenness. Saul doesn't say to the LORD—**Please pardon my sin, and return with me that I may worship the LORD; instead.** Saul says it to Samuel. Samuel, therefore, said to Saul—**I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being King over Israel.**

You think about that? Do you see what happens once Saul rejects the LORD; the LORD rejected him. It is over, and get this – he never saw him to the day of his death.

Exactly what Samuel agreed to. He never saw him, never spoke to him, and even worse the LORD never spoke to Saul from this point forward. He never heard a word, and this is what we covered a couple weeks ago. Saul had to go to a witch to try to hear from Samuel, not from God per se, but from Samuel. This is absolutely, crazy, so the LORD rejected him. You can see a pattern in Saul's life. There's a pattern; a dog returning to its vomit is a guy that's compromising the faith. The guy that has compromised the commandments of God over and over again; this is Saul.

Hebrews 6:4-6—⁴ **For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame** (emphasis added).

Welcome to King Saul. Now, you get to see what it looks like, and the fears and pressures that were involved. If we cannot handle the pressure, we will compromise. Hebrews 6 can be our only expectation. This is a reality.

One last thing to note about Saul, and I mentioned this in the last message, God took His mercy from him. Saul lost his salvation, and that is imperative for us to know. We see this when the LORD speaks to David. 2 Samuel 7:15—**But My mercy shall not depart from him** [Solomon], **as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you** (emphasis added). Saul died in his sin; he will not be saved. The mercy of God was stripped from him.

What is scary, when you look at this passage in Hebrews 6, is Saul was this guy who began to walk with God. There was an intimacy, and the power of God moved through him. The Holy Spirit was on him, and you think about this. That's why this passage is so difficult. How is it the power of God can move through someone like this, and him end up like that? How does that happen? You better understand something; it can happen to you. There's a reason this story is recorded in the Word. So, when we look at Hebrews 6:4, this is something you need to take seriously.

Now that being said, I want to peel back another layer of understanding and address the looming question that hits us in the face the first time you read this. It hits you, and you think, “Is the writer saying what I think he is saying? Is this writer telling me that after I accept Yeshua as LORD, and I have been a partaker of and sealed with the Holy Spirit, which is the seal or proof of my inheritance, that if I fall away (that means if I sin and if I stumble) there's no hope for me? I can't return; is that what this writer is saying?”

Let me answer that. You might not like it. It depends. You might say, “It depends on what?” It depends on you. It depends on whether you are going to choose to live a life like King Saul or whether you're going to live a life like King David.

I want to tell you something so you understand this and its deepest context. Put the lives of these two figures side by side. I put the life of King Saul up next to the life of King David to ensure that you fully appreciate what's being said here. And why do I say that? I say that, because King Saul was supernaturally called by God. Isn't that interesting; King David was called by God. Saul was anointed as king over Israel. Interesting, King David was anointed as king over Israel. Well, Saul had more than that; Saul was anointed with the Ruach HaKodesh, the Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit came out, and he prophesied. King David too was anointed with the Holy Spirit, and he too prophesied.

One last thing is very vital; after all these, King Saul possesses the calling, the anointing as King, the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the prophesying, and after that he fell. He stumbled and he sinned. Isn't that interesting? Because that is David's testimony. After these things, he fell. When, you look at their bios in this context, they are virtually identical side-by-side, and yet Saul is eternally lost and David is eternally redeemed. How is that possible?

I want you to think about how is that possible? What did David do to merit eternal redemption and Saul was rejected. What did David have? The answer to that is David had heart.

See it becomes a true matter of the heart, of this undying love for the LORD God. When Saul responded, he tried to justify his position. It makes sense why I am doing this. I am going to tell you this. The prophet Samuel came to Saul and rebuked him. When the prophet Nathan came to David, he broke. He immediately broke and fell to his knees; the weight of his sin was too much to bear. He couldn't handle it.

He was devastated he had betrayed his God. A God who gave him favor, a God who anointed him, a God who was his closest Confidant, and he betrayed that trust and he couldn't handle it. Saul's response to rebuke was night and day to David's response. Not even comparable. I want to share with you a passage so that you can feel the weight, and why David was eternally redeemed because we need to understand this. If we're not like David that means you are like Saul. Psalms 38:4-8—**For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. ⁵ My wounds are foul and festering Because of my foolishness. ⁶ I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. ⁷ For my loins are full of inflammation, And there is no soundness in my flesh. ⁸ I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.** He can't handle it. There's no break for him.

You do not see this with Saul. It did not have the effect that sin had on David's heart. So, you do not brush it off saying “Grace will cover it; its fine.” You are insulting the Spirit of grace. David could not

handle it. He could not lift his head. See, this is what God is looking for. That brokenness to feel the pain, and to feel the cost that was paid at the cross.

Jeremiah 8:12—**Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; In the time of their punishment They shall be cast down,"** says the LORD.

This is scary. Saul did not know how to blush. This is what's scary about this generation. Not of the world, but of the church. They do not know how to blush, if anyone commits sin. It is just like nothing. It does not matter, because we always have this button of grace over here. There is no brokenness. If you are in sin right now and dealing with addictions, and you are not broken before the LORD, then I am telling you, "You are lost". You need to repent, you need to feel that brokenness, and you need to ask for repentance. You need to do what David did; he cried out, Psalm 51:10-11 **Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

David was not concerned about justifying the way he thought God should be worshipped or in justifying his sin in any way saying, "It was not my fault. She was walking around naked." He was not doing this. It is unbelievable how people justify their sins. No, he was broken. He gives us the secret here.

I want to take you to Psalms 32:5—**I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden.** Do you remember in Joshua chapter 7 when Israel was going to battle against Achan? Achan had hid all the things that he coveted, that were forbidden, and he hid his sin. As a result, Israel started to be destroyed.

This is what Satan gets us to do. He gets us to cover our sins and not think about it. You think, "No one knows about my sin. I know I did it, but I'm not even going to think about it." There is no embrace of Godly sorrow, which is what we need. We need to be driven to our knees. We need to fall, and we need to weep, and wail over the fact we have failed and betrayed our King. This is what we need to do.

So David says in Psalm 32:5—**I have not hidden it.** Then he continues—**I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.** This is where John gets it from when he says in 1 John 1:9—**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

We need that confession to truly understand the success of David. We need the broken heart that led him in repentance. The success hinges upon the confession, "I have sinned. I have wronged you. God have mercy."

Now, if you think you're going to do that just by simply thinking, "I will confess the sin and will push the grace button all the time. Sin and repent; sin and repent; sin and repent." That is not a broken heart. That is not a heart of repentance. Remember Abel's sacrifice was accepted; Cain's was rejected. It was a matter of the heart. As it says in Proverbs 15:8—**The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD.**

Now, look at the effects of confessing the sin—**and you forgave the iniquity of my sin** (Psalm 32:5). Now, let's talk about David's sin. Getting involved in adultery is one of the most egregious sins you can commit according to the Torah. That sin metastasized because lawlessness, as Paul says in Romans 6,

leads to more lawlessness. What did he end up doing? Murder! He committed murder to the point he has to ask for forgiveness of bloodshed. These are David's sins. They are the most horrific sins you can imagine, and yet David is forgiven. He was forgiven. This is the power of the blood of Yeshua. There is hope for us. Amen?

Moving on in Psalms 32:6—**For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found** (emphasis added). You want to pick up on that statement—**when you may be found**—because He is not going to hang around forever. We know this because of what it says in the Scripture. What does Yeshua say to the church at Thyatira in Revelation 2:21 & 23? **²¹ I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent...²³ And I will kill her children.** This is a frightening thing.

The LORD does stand at the door and knock. He gives us time to repent. Isaiah 55 says the same thing. There is a time where He is longing for us, but if you keep going on in your sins, and keep rejecting Him, and then you forsake Him, He will forsake you. Does anyone want to test that time limit? God have mercy, no. Absolutely not!

Again in Psalm 32:6—**For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him.**

When I read that, I think of a passage most of us know by heart, 2 Chronicles. 7:14—**If My people who are called by My name.** This is interesting because Saul was called, but so was David. So—**My people who are called by My name**—will do what? Humble themselves. What did David do? The opposite of Saul. He humbled himself. It then says—**if they will pray.** What does David say? **For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You** (Psalm 32:6). David also said in Psalm 27:8—**When You said, Seek My face...Your face, LORD, I shall seek.** 2 Chronicles 7:14 goes on and says—**and turn from their wicked ways.** Don't go back like a dog to its vomit—**Then I will hear from heaven** (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Yes, when you look at Hebrews 6, there is hope and there is forgiveness, but you better know the difference between the life of King David and the life of King Saul. There is one last thing I want to mention in regard to King David. Do you want to see what repentance looks like? This is what is accredited to David. This is how David is being remembered in the eyes of the LORD. 1 Kings 15:5—**because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite** (emphasis added).

Do you have that testimony? His testimony is what repentance looks like. He didn't just keep sinning.

I'm begging you, let this message sink in. Do not allow anyone to sever Godly sorrow and conviction from your heart. Let it bring you down to the depths of your knees, and let the Holy Spirit begin to regenerate you, purging iniquity of all those lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Get it out. Regarding the addictions you're dealing with, if the devil is telling you, "You're in a state of grace," you are deceived.

You are deceived; you have got to get it out now. There is hope for a broken heart; for true repentance. Yeshua will forgive your sins.