A 5-Day Series-Ending Devotional

The Rise of David & Fall of Saul

“The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them…” — 1 Samuel 16:7

Saul’s rise and fall reveals the danger of pride, partial obedience, and a heart that resists God. David’s story reminds us that God sees beyond appearances, can work through broken histories, and equips those who trust Him. Through Jesus, we receive grace, forgiveness, and a forever promise. This week asks: What kind of heart will I bring to God, and what will I trust when the battle comes?

01

DAY ONE

The Heart God Sees

“The LORD doesn’t see things the way you see them…” — 1 Samuel 16:7

Saul’s story begins with promise, but pride and partial obedience gradually unravel his reign. He wants to lead on his own terms, even when God has made His direction clear. Samuel confronts him: outward success cannot replace a heart surrendered to God.

God’s concern has never been mere appearance or religious performance. He looks for humility, trust, and obedience. Through Jesus, we receive grace when we fall short—and an invitation to turn back to God with honest hearts.

REFLECT
Where might pride or partial obedience be keeping me from following God wholeheartedly?

MAKE ROOM
Come before God honestly. Name one area where you need to surrender your way and follow His direction.

PRAYER
God, help me see beyond appearances and give You my whole heart. Reveal my pride, forgive my disobedience, and lead me in Your ways. Thank You for meeting me with grace through Jesus. Amen.

02

DAY TWO

Grace for a Humble Heart

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” — James 4:10

Saul’s pride, aggression, and divided loyalties put him at odds with God. His story warns us how easily we can excuse our choices instead of admitting where we have gone wrong. Spiritual drift often begins when we defend ourselves rather than listen to God.

Our hope is different because of Jesus. We do not earn the Holy Spirit’s presence by perfect performance; we receive grace and forgiveness through Christ. Grace does not make repentance unnecessary—it makes returning to God possible. He welcomes the humble heart that comes honestly to Him.

REFLECT
When I recognize I’m wrong, do I defend myself or humbly turn back to God?

RETURN
Practice repentance today: admit what needs to change, ask God for help, and take one step toward obedience.

PRAYER
Father, free me from pride and the need to justify myself. Thank You for Your grace in Jesus. Give me a humble heart that receives correction, turns from sin, and welcomes Your restoration. Amen.

03 DAY THREE

God Can Use Your Story

"The LORD looks at the heart." — 1 Samuel 16:7

David was Jesse's youngest son, an unlikely choice by human standards. Yet God saw what others could not and called David into His purposes. David's family line included complicated and broken stories, reminding us that God's work is never limited by a person's past.

Your background does not have to hold you back from participating in God's story. God does not excuse rebellion, but He is able to work through brokenness and redeem what seems unlikely. In Jesus, grace invites us to bring our whole story to God and follow where He leads.

REFLECT
Have I allowed my past or the way others see me to limit what I believe God can do through me?

REMEMBER
Offer one part of your story to God today, trusting Him to shape your next faithful step.

PRAYER
God, thank You that Your purposes are bigger than my past. Help me trust Your vision, receive Your grace, and faithfully take my place in Your story. Amen.

04 DAY FOUR

Choose Your Weapons

"The battle is the LORD's." — 1 Samuel 17:47

David faced Goliath with confidence not in his own greatness, but in God's power and faithfulness. Saul often reached for a spear in anger, while David stepped forward trusting the Lord. Their different responses invite us to consider what we reach for when we feel threatened.

Pride, impatience, and anger can become weapons we hurl at people and problems. God offers a different way: the armor of faith, the truth of His Word, and a life guided by His Spirit. God has given us what we need to live faithfully and resist the lies that pull us off course.

REFLECT
When I feel threatened or frustrated, what "weapons" do I reach for?

RESPOND
Before responding to a difficult person or problem, pause, pray, and choose a response shaped by truth and trust in God.

PRAYER
Lord, teach me to depend on Your strength rather than react in pride or anger. Ground me in Your Word and help me walk in step with Your Spirit. Amen.

05 DAY FIVE

A Forever Promise

"By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." — Hebrews 10:14

As Saul's jealousy grows, Jonathan chooses loyalty and protects David. Their friendship reflects a costly commitment: Jonathan binds himself to David and promises enduring care for his family. In the middle of conflict, we see the beauty of faithful love.

Jesus has made an even greater promise to us. Through His life, death, and resurrection, He has bound Himself to us and opened the way to salvation. His unwavering obedience to the Father accomplished what we could never accomplish alone. We can live with grateful trust in His finished work.

REFLECT
How does Jesus' faithful commitment to me shape the way I live and love others?

LIVE IT
Show faithful love today through one concrete act of encouragement, protection, or kindness.

PRAYER
Jesus, thank You for Your faithful obedience and the forever promise secured through Your sacrifice. Help me live in gratitude, trust Your saving work, and reflect Your steadfast love to others. Amen.

IMMERSE—KINGDOMS • WEEK #6 CLOSING THOUGHT

GIVE GOD YOUR HEART. TRUST HIS POWER. REST IN JESUS' FOREVER PROMISE.