

RIGHT ANSWER, WRONG SOURCE

A Five-Day Devotional

Higher Purpose Church | Pastor Lawrence Williams

Real People. Real Life. Real Love.

This week we are walking through one question: what do you do when you need an answer and heaven is quiet? Saul needed one, and he went and found it somewhere else. It cost him everything he had left. Take these five days slowly. That is the whole point.

DAY 1: The Silence Is Not Absence

1 Samuel 28:6 • 1 Kings 19:11–12

And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

Saul did the right thing first — he went to God. And God said nothing. That is the part we do not know how to sit with, because we read silence as rejection. But God was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire; He came to Elijah in a still small voice, and part of what He was doing was teaching a prophet to lean in.

Silence is not the absence of God. Very often it is the invitation to get closer than a loud answer would have required.

Reflection

What is the one thing you have been asking God about where the silence has started to feel personal? Sit with it today instead of solving it.

Prayer

Lord, I am not going to read Your silence as Your absence. Teach me to lean in and listen.

Notes

DAY 2: The Source Tells On You

1 Samuel 28:7 · Acts 16:16–18

Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her.

One verse. That is all the distance there was between "God, speak to me" and "somebody else, anybody else." Saul had outlawed the mediums himself, and he still went knocking after dark.

In Acts 16 a girl with a spirit of divination said something completely true about Paul — and Paul cast it out anyway. God is protective about who gets to carry His name in their mouth. You can get the right information from the wrong place and still be out of order.

Reflection

When you needed direction this month, who did you go to first? Be honest — the person you call first is the one you actually trust most.

Prayer

Father, I do not just want the right answer. I want it from You. Straighten out where I have been going.

Notes

DAY 3: Diligently Seeking The Wrong Address

1 Samuel 28:8 · Hebrews 11:6

He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The Hebrew word in verse 7 is darash — to seek after, to search out. It is an effort word. Saul disguised himself, left his own army the night before a battle, and crossed behind enemy lines to reach that woman. He was diligent. He just diligently sought the wrong address.

Here is the uncomfortable question that follows: would you spend that kind of effort to get to God? When we pray one time, hear nothing, and move on, what we are really saying is that we did not need the answer all that bad.

Reflection

What would it actually cost you this week to seek God with the same effort you spend chasing a faster answer? Name the cost.

Prayer

God, I have been asking casually and calling it prayer. Make me diligent about You.

Notes

DAY 4: What The Waiting Is Building

Psalm 27:14 · Hebrews 11:1 · Galatians 5:22

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Longsuffering is listed as fruit of the Spirit, and nobody has ever grown it in a fast season. Faith is the substance of things hoped for — and you do not hope for what is already in your hand. Faith lives in the gap.

So God is not withholding the answer to frustrate you. He is building something in the wait that the answer by itself could never give you. Rush the process and you can miss the transformation.

Reflection

Look back at your last long wait. What did God build in you there that a quick answer would have skipped right over?

Prayer

Lord, build in me what only the waiting can build. I will not rush You.

Notes

DAY 5: Stay In The Slow Lane

Psalm 16:11 · Isaiah 40:30–31

In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

The presence of God will cost you something — time, sweat, some nights on your knees. But that is a toll you pay going in, not a bill that shows up at the end of the month.

And here is the promise underneath this whole week: even if He never answers the question you came in with, there is a benefit to just being in the presence. They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength. Stay long enough and you will forget what you came in there for.

Reflection

Put it on the calendar today — a set time with no phone, no search bar, no asking anybody else first. What time, and where?

Prayer

Father, I am staying. Even with no answer, I want the presence more than the information.

Notes

THE ACTION FOR THE WEEK

This week, take some time to stay in the slow lane in His presence.

You can rush the answer — but you can't rush the Author.