

**I Need a Hero (Part 7)**  
***Old Testament Characters***  
***That Teach Us New Testament Truths***

*Saul, a man who stood up head and shoulders above them all*  
(1 Sam.9:2)

**Introduction:** No man in the Bible had so many chances to make his life a success and missed every one of them. But, Saul not only missed opportunities, he deliberately abused them. Saul may have stood up head and shoulders above them all. But his life is a testimony of how low pride, egotism and the abuse of power can bring a person. May we learn the from this Old Testament hero's life, the New Testament truth, "*Pride always precedes a fall.*" Saul's story all begins with...

**I. Saul's promotion: (1 Sam.8,9)**

Samuel, the last of the judges is now 65-70 yrs. old. (8:1-6) The people of Israel, aware of his advanced age and the wickedness of his sons come to Samuel and demand he appoint a king over them...

**A. The people made a demand – (1 Sam.8)**

1. The people wanted a king to rule over them – like the other nations.
2. This demand hurt Samuel – The word “displeased” (lit.) implies it caused anger, indignation, even repulsion to Samuel (and rightly so).

**B. The people made a decision –**

We better be careful what we ask for, God might just give it to us and then let us live with it!

**II. Saul's position: (ch.9 – 11)**

From his outward appearance Saul seemed to be the perfect choice. Notice: All the Biblical references to Saul's external features –

**A. Saul was a man anointed and filled with the Spirit of God –**

1. Note, God can take a wrong thing and make it right – ...as long as that king followed the Lord, God could still use him and get the glory. (And for at least two years that's what happened.)
2. Saul seemed like the natural man for this job, but something happened. Saul stopped relying on the power and wisdom of the Lord. Suddenly...

**B. Saul was a man of arrogance and filled with self-will and pride –** And the rest of Saul's reign turned tragic. Scripture mentions some critical events that lead to the course of Saul's career:

1. Saul was under the spiritual authority of Samuel – (1 Sam 13:13-14; 15:12, 22-23)
2. By the time Saul admitted he messed up and begged Samuel to forgive him, it apparently wasn't believable. (15:35)

God is not interested in our self-claimed sacrifices. He is only interested in our pure un-obstructed obedience! As a result of Saul's disobedience and pride, (Samuel never visited Saul again.) This led to...

**III. Saul's pitfall:** Saul's pitfall was, as a result of his pride which led to disobedience, God removed from Saul His Holy Spirit, which allowed Saul to be influenced by a demonic spirit that ultimately led to his death. (Prov 16:18; 29:23)

**A. Saul's Pitfall began when the Spirit of God left him –**

Without Samuel's spiritual advisement and the Holy Spirit's empowerment – Saul's rule from that time on was disastrous.

**B. Saul's pitfall ended because an evil spirit had gotten hold of him –** When we give the devil a toe hold – he takes the whole house. (1 Sam. 16:21-23; 18:2)

1. Saul's pride led to the stink of jealousy and anger –
2. Saul realized God had already chosen his successor so Saul became jealous of any rival. (1 Sam.18:5-11; 1 Sam. 24:22; 26:6-25; 1 Sam.18:13-17,25; 1 Sam.22:18-19)
3. But the Spirit of God protected David and overpowered Saul and his men (1 Sam. 19:18-24) Until finally,
4. Saul's pride led to his death and the death of his sons – Saul's reign ended as it began, in battle (1 Sam.28:19).

Both James and Peter write "*God resists the proud...*" (Js. 4:6; 1 Pe. 5:5) And the bottom line is, this hero would tell us today, "Take my hand and I'll show you a spirit of pride will only serve to stink up your life and drive you farther and farther from God! Learn from me so it won't happen to you."