

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

September 30, 2013

Tormented By Evil Ways

1 SAMUEL 16:14-15 NLT – (14) Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and the LORD sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear. (15) Some of Saul's servants said to him, "A tormenting spirit from God is troubling you".

Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him" (**1 Samuel 16:14**). This is also mentioned in **1 Samuel 16:15-16, 23, 18:10, and 19:9**. God sent a demon or "evil spirit" to torment Saul. Saul had directly disobeyed God on two occasions (**1 Samuel 13:1-14; 15:1-35**). Therefore, God removed His Spirit from Saul and allowed an evil spirit to torment him. Likely, Satan and the demons had always wanted to attack Saul. God was now simply giving them permission to do so.

What exactly is happening to Saul? Well, Saul became afflicted with a form of mental disorder caused by an evil spirit. Saul today would be diagnosed as a person experiencing manic depression/bipolar disorder. The periods of intense gloom with occasional out breaks of homicidal violence for no particular reason, the delusion that people were plotting against him....are unmistakable. The expression "a tormenting spirit from the Lord" is explained by the fact that what God permits He often said to do.

This leads to a related question - does God send evil spirits to torment people today? And the answer is "Yes." There are examples of individuals in the New Testament being turned over to Satan or demons for punishment. If God does allow evil spirits to torment people today, He does so with the goal of our good and His glory (**Romans 8:28**). Even though the demons are evil, they are still under God's sovereign control.

1 SAMUEL 16:23 NLT – (23) And whenever the tormenting spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away.

Saul's servants suggested that the king find someone gifted in music to calm him. David's name was suggested, and Saul sent for him. **1 Samuel 16:18** shows that David had already made a name for himself, even before he faced Goliath. The key passage is "the Lord is with him."

These events are all because of disobedience. Remember, God can bring the spirit of torment and God can also bring you peace. What will be your choice? It is very dangerous to be complacent with being tormented by an evil spirit (**Romans 1:28**).

SCRIPTURE READING

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Wicked men obey from fear; good men, from love.

September 1, 2013

