

Verse 23 tells us the Spirit of God comes upon Saul and he prophesies. Yet immediately after this, Saul's rage against David drives him into an outlaw existence, on the run for his life. How has the Spirit not made Saul more peaceable toward his loyal servant?

Mr. Kelly points out, "He is none the better for [the visitation of the Spirit]. The power of the Spirit of God only makes a man's case the more desperate, if he be not born of God." Kelly then goes to compare Saul's state with those described in Hebrews 6:4-6: "For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance." There are those who have partaken of the Spirit, experienced the power of the Spirit, but have not been born again by the Spirit through complete and sincere repentance. They may be externally immersed in manifestations of the Spirit—"religious" people—but

not indwelt by the Spirit. This can lead to hardening of the heart and eventually falling away into outright enmity with Christ.

Hebrews 6:10 appeals to the reader to remember the time of their fresh encounter with the Spirit working within them and holds out hope that true regeneration is still possible. "God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints." Jonathan similarly pleads with his father, "You saw [David's victory over Goliath] and rejoiced." Remember where you were and repent from where you are now, the Spirit says to those still straddling the fence. "And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the **full assurance** of hope until the end."

Notes

19:19 Ramah, Naioth, and and Secu are presumed to be near Gibeah in the hill country of Judea but their exact location is unknown.

19:24 This probably means that Saul removed his royal robes.

Questions for study and discussion:

1. How does Jonathan try to dissuade Saul from killing David?
2. What makes Saul break his oath in verse 6 and go back to hating David?
3. Why, do you think, that Saul's attempts on David's life take place while David is playing the lyre?

4. What is the “image” in verse 13?
5. Is Michal telling the truth in verse 17?
6. Does David ever return to Saul’s house after fleeing this time?
7. What exactly happens to Saul in Naioth?
8. Does Samuel take any action to reconcile Saul and David?