

Is God with you?

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[0 : 00] Greet you in the name of Jesus this morning.! It is good to be here together again. This morning you can turn to 1 Samuel chapter 4.

! Paul admonished us to examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith. Examine ourselves before we... You know, and I think it's... You know, it seems like the Lord has been...

Has been doing that the last weeks. And... So as we look here in 1 Samuel...

You know, the book of Samuel starts in... With the parents of Samuel and how he came...

[1 : 26] Was born as an answer to prayer. How his mother dedicated him to the service of the Lord. And it talks about the condition of the nation of Israel.

And of Eli and his sons who were priests. And then in chapter 3 we have...

How the Lord spoke to Samuel. And then he gave that word of prophecy...

Concerning Eli and his sons. And before that in chapter 2 we have... A man of God that came and prophesied against...

And prophesied some of the same things. But now... Probably about... According to my Bible...

[2 : 33] The side column would be about 24 years later... After this word had come through Samuel... We have chapter 4.

Now in a read... We will not read the whole chapter... But we will... We will take some verses out here... And as we go through this account...

1 Samuel 4... We'll start in verse 1... And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle...

And pitched beside Ebenezer... And the Philistines pitched in Aphek. And the Philistines put themselves in array against Israel.

And when they joined battle... Israel was smitten before the Philistines. And they slew the army in the field... About 4,000 men. And when the people were come into the camp...

[3 : 36] The elders of Israel said... Wherefore hath the Lord smitten us today... Before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord...

Out of Shiloh unto us... That when it cometh among us... It may save us out of the hand of the enemy. So the people sent to Shiloh...

That they might bring from thence... The ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts... Which dwelleth between the Jerobims... And the two sons of Eli... Hophni and Phinehas...

Were there with the ark of the covenant. And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord... Came into the camp... All Israel shouted with a great shout... So that the earth rang again.

And of course the Philistines wondered... What's going on that these... This army that we defeated... And they ran away from us... They are so happy now...

[4 : 35] And they're shouting... And they understood that the ark of the Lord... Had come into the camp. Now in a look here... Let's go back to verse 3...

It says here... They asked the question... Why has the Lord smitten us today... Before the Philistines? You know they knew the history of Israel...

And they knew that... If God is with them... Then they can overcome the enemy. And so they knew...

When they were smitten before the enemy... They knew that it was the Lord... Allowing it to happen. And so... We don't know if they...

Acknowledged it or not... But it seems like they acknowledged... That the Lord was not with them. The Lord was not with them.

[5 : 31] And so... They devised a way... That they thought they could have the Lord... Be with them in the next battle. And that was to go and to get the ark...

The ark of the covenant... And to bring it into their midst... And surely... You know God dwells in the ark... And if we have the ark here... You know...

Yes God dwells... What was it? He dwelt there... The ark was between the seraphims... It says here... And the cherubims... And so...

The dwelling of God was at that place... And so they brought the ark of the covenant... God had made this covenant with Israel... And so...

It seems to me that they... They thought if they would remind God... Of this covenant... And they would bring the ark into their midst... Then God would be there...

[6 : 31] And God would be obligated... To save them from their enemies... Did it work?

Well no it did not work... They went out... To the battle... And Israel fled... And they were smitten before the Philistines...

And there fell of Israel 30,000 footmen... And the ark of God was taken... And the two sons of Eli... Hophni and Phinehas were slain... You know...

I believe that we see this much in our day... Is that... People try to devise a way...

That God will be with them... You know... Jesus talked about people... Trying to enter in some other way... And it will never work...

[7 : 27] It will not work to enter in... Some other way... You know... Here in this... In this case... You know... We go on...

And in chapter 7... Which was some years later... Samuel spake... To all the house of Israel... In chapter 7...

In verse 3... If ye do return unto the Lord... With all your hearts... Then put away the strange gods... And Ashtaroth from among you...

And prepare your hearts unto the Lord... And serve Him only... And He will deliver you... Out of the hand of the Philistines...

Then the children of Israel... Did put away Balaam and Ashtaroth... And serve the Lord only... You know... Wasn't this what God wanted the first time...

[8 : 24] You know... When they were smitten... Before the Philistines... And 3,000 men were slain... If they would have put away their idols... They would have put away their false gods...

And they would have repented... And given their heart and life to God... I believe He would have saved them... In that next battle... But they tried to devise another way...

Another way that would have God in their midst... But they did not want to part with their idols... Today... We don't have...

We don't have images... That we bow down to... But how many of us... Have things in our heart... That we're not willing to part with...

How many of us... Are still allowing self... To have some say in our life... How many of us... Are still hanging on to things...

[9 : 24] Are still hanging on to things... That we're not willing... To lay down for the sake of Christ... They realized that day... That the Lord was not with them...

You know... We found a quote... I want to read it... To us here today... Life's greatest tragedy... Is to lose the sense of God's presence...

And not miss it... To lose the sense of God's presence... In other words... Somehow...

We have... We have grieved the spirit of God... We've quenched him... And he has withdrawn...

And we don't even miss it... We don't even realize it...

Life's greatest tragedy... Is to lose the sense of God's presence... And not miss it... You know... If we miss it... If we know...

[10 : 24] What has happened... If we know we're in trouble... Then we can repent... But if we don't even... Miss it... If we're so hardened... That we don't even notice... If we're so used to...

Living our life on our own... In our own strength... I believe many times... We take for granted... That the Lord is with us... Israel did that...

They took for granted... That the Lord was with them... And he was not... And they were defeated... They did not repent that day...

But they... Instead tried to devise a way... To force God to go with them... To the battle... But you know... When they repented...

When they repented... And they... It says... Samuel admonished them... He said... Prepare your hearts unto the Lord...

[11:25] And serve him only... And so they put away... The false gods... And the... The children of Israel... They were gathered together... To Mizpah...

And... And they repented there... Before the Lord... And when the Philistines heard... That Israel was gathered together... They decided to come... And to attack...

But this time... The Lord was with Israel... And they were defeated that day... Reminded of Galatians 6...

7... Be not deceived... God is not mocked... Whatsoever a man soweth... That... Will he also reap... You know... God...

God knew the hearts of Israel... God knew... That their heart was divided... They were still... They were still professing... To be serving God...

[12:22] But they were also serving idols... God will not take second place... He must... Be on the throne of our heart... The Amplified...

In chapter 4... Verse 3... When they decided to go... Bring the ark... The Amplified says... Let us bring the ark... That he may come among us...

And save us from our enemies... You know... How many times do we... Try to make a compromise with God...

God is not in the compromising business... The devil will compromise with you... Yes... But God will never... Israel had drifted away from God...

And only by returning... And repenting... And giving their all back to God... Would he again be with them... Samuel told them...

[13:35] What did he say? If ye do return unto the Lord... With all your hearts... And this is the answer for all people today...

If we will return to the Lord... With all our hearts... It doesn't matter who... Who we are... Who hears this... Or does not...

But whoever... Professes to serve God... But has drifted away... If we will... There's only one way... And that is to return to the Lord...

And put away those things... That have drawn us away... Those things that we have... Allowed into our heart... The children of Israel...

They had a divided heart... The children of Israel... They still professed... To serve God... But they also... Served other gods... God will not...

[14:32] Accept that... You know... I want to read a couple verses... In Deuteronomy... This...

Of course was... Quite some time before... The account that we were looking at today... But it was... The children of Israel...

To the forefathers... Of the ones that we're talking about today... In Deuteronomy 10... Verse 12...

Here we have... Here we have Moses...

Talking... He says... And now Israel... What does the Lord require... Of thee... But to fear... The Lord thy God...

To walk in all his ways... And to love him... And to serve the Lord thy God... With all thy heart... And with all thy soul... And to keep the commandments... The commandments of the Lord...

[15:33] And his statutes... Which I command thee... This day... For thy good... You know... God... God had commanded... And God promised... To be with them...

To be with them... And as long as they... Serve him with all their hearts... And today... And today... Isn't that what he requires of us... Is to serve him...

With all our heart... With all our soul... With all our mind... And to love our neighbor... As ourselves... Yes... In verse 16... In verse 16... Here in Deuteronomy... And circumcise... Therefore the foreskin...

Of your heart... And be...

No more... Stiff-necked... You know... They had... They had the covenant... Of circumcision... But... It wasn't so much... The physical circumcision...

[16:31] That... That God was looking for... But that circumcision... Of the heart... That deals with that thing... That argues against God... That thing that deals...

With that... That cuts away... Those arguments... That we have... That rebellion... That we have against God... To circumcise... Our heart...

To deal with that thing... That's always arguing... Against... The word of God... And what he is saying... In Luke...

Jesus said... No servant... Can serve... Two masters... No servant... Can serve... Two masters... You know...

We cannot... Two masters... Just like... Israel... Could not serve... God and Balaam... Jeremiah 29... [17:35] You shall find me... When ye search for me... With all your hearts... In 2nd Chronicles 15... 2... Asa was told...

By the prophet... The Lord is with you... While ye be with him... If ye forsake him... God will forsake you... Yes... Is God's presence... With you...

Or is there a hindrance... In your life... Let's go to the New Testament... Let's go... Actually... Let's get... Isaiah 59... Yet on our way...

There's a verse... In Isaiah 59... You know... If we find ourselves... At a place... Where... Where God is distant...

[18:31] Where the spirit of... Of God... Is not... Is not so real... In our heart... In our life... As it used to be... You know... In... In Isaiah 59...

I believe... We... We have an answer... He says... Behold... The Lord's hand... Is not shortened... That it cannot save... Neither his ear... Heavy... That it cannot hear...

You know... It's not the Lord's fault... If we feel... That... That... That... We're not as close... To the Lord... As we used to be... But he says... Your iniquities...

Have separated... Between you... And your God... Your sins... Have hid his face... From you... That he will not hear... You know... And many times... I believe...

You know... We say... Well... You know... I... I mean... I don't steal... I don't do this... I don't do that... I... You know... But there's so many things... That are not necessarily sins...

[19:28] That we do with our hands... But there are sins... That hinder us... Things that hinder us... In the kingdom of God...

In Hebrews it says... To lay aside... Every weight... And the sin... Which does so easily... Beset us... And a run with patience...

The race... That is set before us... Now Jesus said... In Matthew... 16... Let's see what he... What Jesus said... In Matthew 16... 16... Verse 24...

If any man will come after me... Let him deny himself... Take up his cross... And follow me... Deny himself...

[20:32] The Christian life... Is a life... That we live...

For Jesus Christ... And the only way... We will live for Jesus Christ... Is if we deny... Our own will... If we deny... Our own self...

If we keep that old self life... Crucified... And on the cross... That's why he says here... If we will follow him...

We must deny... Ourselves... And we must take up his cross... And follow him... Yes... Whosoever will save his life...

Shall lose it... Whosoever shall lose his life... For my sake... Shall find it... What is a man profited... If he gained the whole world... And lose his own soul... What will a man give...

[21:27] In exchange... For his soul... Very... Very serious... Thoughts here... You know... He asks the question... What will a man give...

In exchange for his soul... He doesn't even answer it... Why? Because there's nothing... You can give... To buy... To buy back your soul...

Jesus has paid... The penalties... Paid the price... And as we... Live for him... As we... Surrender our all to him... Then that price...

That penalty... Is paid... And I want to...

Go to the book of James... We will... Change course a little bit here...

[22:34] But he says here... In James chapter 3... In verse 2... He says... For in many things we offend all...

If any man offend not in word... The same is a perfect man... The same is a perfect man... How many of you are perfect today? You know...

That... That should be our goal... And here he writes this... He says... If any man offend not in word... The same is a perfect man...

And able also to bridle the whole body... You know... Why is that? How does that work? Well I believe it is... You know that... He's talking...

He's talking about... About our words... And the things that we say... And... I believe that... Our tongue is the last thing...

[23 : 30] That will come under the power... Of the Holy Ghost... You know... When a man... When a man's speech... When a man's tongue... Is under the power of the Spirit of God...

That means... Most likely... The rest of his life... Is under... The control of the Spirit of God... Now he continues here...

Let's... Start reading in 5... Even so the tongue... Is a little member... And boasts great things... Behold how great a matter...

A little fire kindleth... And the tongue is a fire... A world of iniquity... So is the tongue among our members... That it defileth the whole body...

And setteth on fire the course of nature... And it is set on fire of hell... For every kind of beast... And of birds... And of serpents... And things in the sea is tamed...

[24 : 28] And hath been tamed of mankind... But the tongue can no man tame... It is an unruly evil... Full of deadly poison...

Therewith bless we God... Even the Father... And therewith curse we men... Which are made... After the similitude of God... Out of the same mouth... Proceedeth blessing and cursing...

My brother... These things ought not so to be... And that is why I say... That is why I say... I believe...

It's what he means... When he wrote here... That if a man offend not in word... That man is a perfect man... Why? Because... The only way that our tongue can be tamed...

Is if the Holy Ghost is in control of it... If he's in control of our life... If Jesus is on the throne of our heart... And the Holy Ghost controls us...

[25 : 26] Then... We can be that perfect man... And the tongue will reveal... Who we are... The tongue will reveal...

Whether we are under the control... Of the Lord Jesus... Or if self and pride are in control... The tongue can no man tame...

It is only tamed by the Spirit of God... God... Now let's...

Let's turn to... To Matthew 12... Let's see what Jesus said here... About... The tongue... In Matthew 12...

The end of verse 34... For out of the abundance of the heart... The mouth speaketh...

[26 : 27] A good man out of the good treasure of the heart... Bringeth forth good things... An evil man out of the evil treasure... Bringeth forth evil things... But I say unto you...

That every idle word that men shall speak... They shall give account thereof... In the day of judgment... For by thy words... Thou shalt be justified... And by thy words...

Thou shalt be condemned... You know... How important is it... That the Spirit of God... Is in control... Of our life... And of our tongue... It is of the utmost importance...

You know... James told us... That no man can tame the tongue... You know... We can make excuses... We can try... But unless we surrender... To the Lord Jesus...

We will not... Achieve our goal... As long... As long as we are trying... To appease self... As long as we are trying...

[27 : 26] To make room... For some other gods... We will not... Be under the control... Of the Lord Jesus... Now let's see...

What he says here... The mouth... Speaks... Out of the abundance... Of the heart...

You know... I don't know your heart... But God does... But when...

The tongue... Starts saying things... That are not good... And are not up... Building... That are not life... It's revealing... What's in the heart... That's what it's doing...

Out of that heart... The mouth speaks... A good man... Out of the good treasure... Of the heart... He brings forth... Good things... An evil man...

[28 : 28] That has evil treasure... In his heart... Evil things... You know... We can hide... Some things... You can hide things... From me... I can hide things... From you... But we cannot hide...

Anything from the Lord Jesus...

The Holy Ghost... Knows every secret... Every secret... In our heart... Verse 36... Verse 36... I say unto you... Every idle word...

That men shall speak... They shall give account... Of judgment... For by thy words... Thou shalt be justified... And by thy words...

Thou shalt be condemned... How important is it... That our tongue... Is under the control... Of the Holy Ghost... I say... It is of the utmost... Utmost...

Of the importance... Chapter 15... Verse 18...

[29 : 29] And 19... For these things... For those things... Which proceed... Out of the mouth... Come forth from the heart... And they defile the man...

Here the Pharisees... Had challenged him... That they were eating... With unwashed hands... And so on... But... Jesus said... It's not what goes in...

That defiles the man... It's what comes out of the heart... Is what defiles the man... For out of the heart...! Evil thoughts... Murders...

Adulteries... Fornications... Thefts... False witness...! Blasphemies... These... Are the things... Which defile a man... But to eat with...

Unwashing hands... Defileth... Not... A man... You know... The thoughts... That we allow in our heart... You know... What is it... Corinthians... That admonishes us...

[30 : 26] To... To take every thought... Captive... And to bring it in... Under the obedience... Of Christ... Every thought... How will that happen?

Only by the power... Of the Holy Ghost... If we've grieved him... If he's... Withdrawn himself... Because some... Idol... We've allowed in our life... Then we're on our own...

And there's no way... To be victorious... It's just like... Just like the children of Israel... They... They were defeated... Before the enemy... And I believe... So many times... So many times...

People try... People try...

On their own... People try... To... To do something... To force God... To come... And to stand with them... And to give them victory... But unless...

[31 : 25] We surrender to Him... Unless... We come to Him... In full... Total repentance... And crucify... That old life... He will not...

Come... His presence... Will not come... No... But He will stand aloof... He will... He will not come... He will not... He will not share... The throne of your heart... With self... Always some idol... So how important...

Are our words... I believe... Very important... What was that... That we read... By thy words... Thou shalt be justified... By thy words... Thou shalt be...

I'm gonna... I'm gonna get a few verses... In Proverbs... In Proverbs... Chapter... 10...

[32 : 30] I believe... We'll just go through... We'll find a few here... Proverbs 10...

Proverbs 10... 19... In the multitude of words... There wanteth not sin... But he that refraineth... His lips... Is wise... In...

Well let's go to Proverbs... Chapter 6... Here we have a list... Of things... In Proverbs...

Chapter 6... In verse 16... These six things... Does the Lord hate... Yea... Savin are an abomination... Unto him... A proud look... A lying tongue... And hands...

That shed innocent blood... And heart... That devises wicked imaginations... Feet that be swift... In running to mischief... A false witness... That speaketh lies...

[33 : 35] And he that soweth... Discord... Among brethren... You know... A lot of these... Some of these... They have to do... With what...

The words that we say... And a proud look... A lying tongue... The heart... A heart that is... Compromised...

A heart that is... That is... Lifting up self... That is trying to protect self... And not willing... To... To crucify self... Jesus said...

If we... Will follow him... We must take up our cross... And follow him... And... What he means... Is that we need to... Crucify ourselves... There's no room...

There's no room... For Jesus on the throne... If self is on the throne... He will not share... The throne of your heart... A proud look...

[34 : 32] The Amplified says... That spirit... That makes one... Overestimate himself... And underestimate others... In other words...

Thinking... Of ourselves... Higher than we ought to think... You know... I'm reminded of... Of that account... What was it... Where the Pharisee went to pray... And he said...

Oh I thank you... That I'm not like that... Publican over there... You know... Thinking himself... Higher... Than the publican... When... At the same time...

The publican came to the Lord... And... And confessed his sin... And repentance... And went home... Blessed... But the Pharisee... All he had... Was a proud heart...

That God... Withstands... Instead of blesses... Arrogance...

[35 : 30] Power 13... 10... Only by pride... Cometh contention... Verse 19... Here that we read... A false witness...

And sowing discord... Gossip... Slander... Many... Many words... That could come into this... Defaming others... Putting others down...

To elevate ourselves... Harming others... Reputation... Character assassination... You know... Juicy gossip sells...

Doesn't it... You know... Just the other day... I... I read an article... About a politician... That... People had spread...

Many false... Rumors... About him... And in the end... He was exonerated... But his reputation...

[36 : 29] Is ruined... For the rest of his life... Those things... I believe... God hates... God hates... Those things... That's what he says here...

God hates them... They're an abomination... To him... Proverbs 26... 20... Where there is no... Tailbearer... The strife ceases... Words of a... Tailbearer... Are his wounds... Proverbs 19... 9... A false witness...

Shall not be unpunished... He that speaketh lies... Shall perish... You know... That is why...

It is... Of the utmost... Importance... That we have... Surrendered our heart... And life... To the Lord Jesus... That the Holy Ghost...

[37 : 26] Can be in control... Of us... That he can fill... Our heart... And that... This tongue... Will speak forth... Words of life...

The word tells us... That the power... Of life and death... Are in the tongue... Are we speaking life... Or are we speaking death... What is the effect... Of our words... What... Is the effect... Of our words... Samuel told Israel...

He said... Return with all your heart... To the Lord... And serve him only... Reserve... Serve him... Return and serve him...

Give your all to him... Remove those idols... Psalm 66... 18... Says... If I regard... Iniquity in my heart...

[38 : 26] The Lord will not hear me... If I regard... If I give place... To anything... That... That... That... That... God... Does not meet... The approval of God...

It is iniquity... If I give place... To anything like that... If I give place... To anything... That is not under the authority... Of the Lord Jesus... He says...

If I regard... Iniquity in my heart... The Lord... Will not hear me... Proverbs 28... 13... He that covereth his sins... Shall not prosper... But whoso confesses...

And forsakes... Shall have mercy... God... Is not mocked... Whatsoever... A man sows...

That... Will he also reap... You know God... God's presence... Was not with the children of Israel... Why not?

[39 : 23] Because... Their heart was divided... Because... They were following after... Other gods... And they refused... To give him...

All their heart... God will not compromise... With us... Just as he didn't compromise...

With the children of Israel... God will not change his mind... To walk with us... We must change our mind...

To walk with him... We must say... Yes Lord... To his word... To his will... To his spirit...

God's presence... Is not with people... Who have unconfessed sin... The scripture warns us... Not to quench...

[40 : 21] The Holy Ghost... Not to grieve... The spirit of God... Why? Because... He will withdraw... If we quench him...

If we resist him... We will grieve him... And he will withdraw... And it is... And it is... The greatest tragedy... That when he has withdrawn...

Many times... We become so used to... Walking in our own strength... That we don't even notice... That he has withdrawn... Just like Israel... Just like Israel...

Somehow they assumed... That God would go with them... And when God was not with them... They assumed... That they can force God... To go with them... When they got the ark... And took the ark with them... To battle... It did not work with Israel...

[41 : 19] It will not work for us... Has he withdrawn himself... And we have not noticed... You know...

That's a question... That we must answer individually... We must answer that... Each one of us... For our own self... Where are we at?

Are we trying... To compromise with God... Instead of surrendering to him? An uncontrolled tongue...

Will grieve the spirit of God... The spirit of God... Are we so used to... Living our life without him... That we don't notice...

Are we... You know... Jesus said... You know... They try to climb in... Some other way... There's no other way... But people try... Just like Israel tried...

[42 : 22] Some other way... Trying to force God... To accept the carnal mind... Which Romans says... It is enmity with God... And it will never be...

Pleasing to God... It must be crucified... It must be... It must be... Power of the spirit of God... Does our social media...

Account... Pass the test... Of idle words... Does it pass the test... I want to...

I want to read here... In Philippians 4... In closing... This verse... Finally... Finally... Brethren...

Whatsoever things are true... Whatsoever things are honest...

Whatsoever things are just... Whatsoever things are pure... Whatsoever things are lovely...

Whatsoever things are of good report... If there be any virtue...

[43 : 27] If there be any praise... Think... These... Things... Does our...

Social media... Account... Our accounts... People have many of them... Do they... Do they...

Pass these tests... The test... Of Philippians 4... 8... The test... Of idle words... You know...

I believe... I believe... That... The things that we post... The things that we... Text... The things that we put on... Facebook... They are just as if...

We have spoken it... We will give an account... For our life... We will give an account... For our words... Death and life...

[44 : 43] Are in the power of the tongue... Guard your heart... For out of it... Come the issues of life... There's so much... Admonition... There's so much...

If we will but... Read the word... And accept the word... As the rule of our life... It will save us...

From so... Much... Trouble... Psalm 24... Says... Who shall ascend... Into the hill of the Lord... He that hath clean hands... Clean hands... And a pure heart...

Who hath not lifted up... A soul into vanity... Nor sworn deceitfully... Clean hands... And a pure heart... That's what God is looking for...

That's what He's looking for... Now... Let's look again... At Philippians 4... 8... Finally...

[45 : 48] Brethren... Whatsoever things are true... You know... If we... If we... If we... If we run... Everything in our life... By this test...

I believe... We will have... We will be that... Perfect man... That James talks about... True...

Honest... Just...

Pure... Lovely... Of good report... Oh yes... If there be any virtue... If there be any praise... Think on these things...

Yes... Verse 6 and 7... Be careful for nothing... But in everything by prayer and supplication... With thanksgiving...

Let your requests... Be made known unto God... And the peace of God... Which passes all understanding... Will keep our hearts and minds...

[46 : 50] Through Christ Jesus... There is power... To keep our hearts and minds... And to keep our tongue...

Pure... The words that come out of us... Pure... There is a way... There is a way... And it is through the power... Of the Spirit of God...

Today... I don't know... Your heart... But I know that...

The Lord gave me this message... And all I ask... Is that we search our hearts... And we yield to Him... Wherever He may...

Have spoken... To us today... May the Lord bless...