

1 Sam 8:6-9

But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods--so they are doing to you also. Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

I remember many years ago when I was a young Christian. I had a friend who also was a Christian. He was part of a bible study at my sister's house and went to the same church that we did. His family also where Christians and owned a Christian bookstore. He was a really nice guy. Then one day there was a Christian concert at our church and I found out that he wasn't going. So I went to his house and he was all dressed up to go out, but not to this concert, but rather to go party with non-Christian friends, which included drinking and drugs.

I spent about an hour with him trying to convince him that what he was starting to get into was bad and would only bring him pain, but he wouldn't listen. I finally prayed with him and left his house. I was miserable after that because I knew what he was headed for.

This was the same sort of thing that was going on with the children of Israel. They had God ruling over them, but they didn't want God to rule over them, they wanted to be like other nations and have a king instead of the King of kings rule over them. They wanted something they could see and touch and talk to and listen to.

Just like me, Samuel the prophet was very miserable because of this. I suppose we take these sorts of things personally, because it's family (Spiritual). But God reassured Samuel that the people were not rejecting him as their prophet, but rather they were rejecting God as their true King.

I know sometimes it's tough, but sometimes we have to let these people go and allow the Lord to deal with them, even if it means that God will deliver him or her over to satan.

✠ **1 Cor 5:5** *deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

I know when I was backslidden my own sister had to turn me away when I needed help. It was very hard for her to do because I had no place to stay, yet she knew it was best for me and she could do nothing more. I was in the hands of the Lord and only then could He get my attention.

There are times when it just gets to the point that we can't help someone any longer, and even by helping them, we are hurting them, because we are not allowing the Lord to do

what He wants and needs to do in their life. There maybe someone in your life right now like that. Pray about it and see if you are getting in the way of what the Lord wants to do, and if you are (no matter how much it may hurt) it's time to let the Lord deal with them and not you.

Or maybe it's you who have backslidden, and things are going bad in your **life** right now. Just know it's the loving hand of the Lord wanting you to come back to Him. And as soon as you do, He will take you back, no questions asked.

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✝ *"They say, 'If a man divorces his wife, And she goes from him And becomes another man's, May he return to her again?' Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; Yet return to Me," says the LORD. Jeremiah 3:1*

✝ *I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you. Isaiah 44:22*