

Confident Faith – Confident in God’s Character, our Shepherd and King

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The Bible calls us to a deep confidence, not found in circumstances or people, but found in who God is.

Samuel and David are two heroes of faith who were confident in God’s character of Shepherd and King. They had faith in God as He spoke, as He led, and as He directed.

Hebrews 11:32–33a *“And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised. Hebrews reminds us that through faith, these leaders conquered kingdoms... and gained what was promised.”*

The stories of both Samuel and David, in 1 and 2 Samuel, reveal that their confidence did not come from their own power or perfection, but from knowing, believing, and having strong faith in the character of the God who called them.

God Speaks

1 Samuel 3:1 says, *“The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days, the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.”* Israel was in a dark and confusing time in that “the word of the Lord was rare.” In the darkness of Israel, God speaks—calling Samuel by name.

1 Samuel 3: 4-8 says, *“Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down. Again the LORD called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me”. “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the LORD called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”*

When God first called to Samuel, he thought his mentor Eli was calling him. After God called him the third time, Eli realized what was happening and he guided Samuel in what to say if God called him again. God did call out to Samuel again and that time Samuel responded: *“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”* (1 Samuel 3:10) When God spoke, Samuel took the posture of a humble servant and listened to the King of Kings.

God Leads

When Samuel is sent to anoint Israel’s future king, God makes it clear that He does not look at outward appearance. 1 Samuel 16:7, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” David, the young shepherd, is chosen not for his stature, but for his heart and his trust in the Lord.

Before David is anointed King, he learns to follow God as his King and Shepherd. In that day, shepherds were with their sheep 24/7, making sure the sheep were fed, cared for, protected from predators, and rescued when lost. Shepherds knew their sheep, and the sheep knew their shepherd's voice which allowed them to follow. As David, the young shepherd, gave care of his sheep in the fields, he leaned into the great Shepherd's care and voice.

As the king David continued to seek God's direction. In 2 Samuel 5 David listened to the Lord his shepherd. Before David conquered Jerusalem and before defeating the Philistines, he confidently waited and sought direction from the Lord *"Shall I go up?"* and *"Lord, what should I do?"* The questions were not out of hesitation from David; they were a sign of his humble posture to be led by his Shepherd. David understood that victory did not come from his position as a powerful King, but from his posture of an obedient sheep to the Lord his King and Shepherd. The Lord led and David followed.

God Directs

Samuel and David lived by faith as referenced earlier in Hebrews 11:32-33a. In faith they both acted on God's direction even when the outcome was uncertain. Both Samuel and David showed through their actions that faith was not a passive belief; it was an active trust in God's character.

In 1 Samuel chapters 15-16, as Samuel grieved over Saul, the Lord spoke to him and gave him direction. God directed Samuel to go and anoint one of the sons of Jesse of Bethlehem as the new king. Even in Samuel's personal pain, through his confident faith in God he followed the directions the Lord gave to him. When David was disobedient, God directed the prophet Nathan to call David out on his sin, David genuinely repented with a broken heart, He accepted full responsibility.

Samuel and David were not perfect, but their confident faith in God allowed them repentance, forgiveness, and restoration in their dark times. They lived out their lives in confident faith. They were confident in the character of God as their Shepherd and King. They listened when God spoke. They followed where God led.

As you think about all of this, I invite you to consider the following questions. Am I living in confident faith? Am I listening to God? Am I following God where He is leading me? Am I being obedient to God's direction?

Check out these powerful songs that speak of God as our Shepherd and King!

Chris Tomlin - Holy Forever:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkHgxKemCRk>

Hillsong Music - You Are Faithful:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GpsOoMPLrA&list=RD2GpsOoMPLrA&start_radio=1