

David: The Early Years
Every Crutch Removed
1 Samuel 18:10-11

1 Samuel 18:10-11 (NKJV) And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

1 Samuel 18:12-15 (NKJV) Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.

1 Samuel 19:8 (NKJV) And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him.

1 Samuel 19:9-10 (NKJV) Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand. Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night.

I. The Removal of Five Significant Crutches

- A. The Crutch of a Good Position**
- B. The Crutch of David's Wife - 1 Samuel 18:20-21; 19:11-18**
- C. The Crutch of Samuel - 1 Samuel 20:3**
- D. The Crutch of Jonathan - 1 Samuel 20:42; 1 Samuel 21:10-11**
- E. The Crutch of Self-respect - 1 Samuel 21:12-15**

II. Three Warnings to All Who Prefer Crutches

- A. Crutches Become Substitutes for God - Deuteronomy 33:27; Isaiah 41:10**
- B. Crutches Keep Our Focus Horizontal**
- C. Crutches Offer Only Temporary Relief**

III. Two Final Lessons for "Leaners"

- A. There's nothing wrong with leaning, if you lean ultimately and completely on the Lord.**
- B. Being stripped of all substitutes is the most painful experience on earth.**