

STANDING TALL/FALLING HARD THE STORY CHAPTER 10

“Speak, for your servant is listening.” (I Samuel 3:10 NIV)

Introduction

1. Can you remember a time when your life was impacted by a whisper from God? What was it? What do you think hinders you from hearing God’s voice? What will you decide to do to hear God’s voice better?
2. Can you relate to Hannah’s desperate cry to receive a breakthrough from God? What was it that God helped her do to reposition her heart to receive her answer and miracle from God? Is there an urgent area of need that you would like God to help you sense how to more perfectly pray His will?
3. In today’s story we see how easy it is for excuses and religiosity to become a substitute for true heart obedience, that allows the kind of blessing that Hannah receives. When Jesus had to choose between his agenda and total obedience He chose obedience, while Saul chose to justify doing his own will under the cover of a religious disguise. We see this happened because of two things:
 - a. Saul and the people wanted to be like the rest of the world and its kingdom. All of us face the relentless pressure to conform to the thinking, fashion, and behaviors of the people in the world around us. Can you share one area that you often feel pressure to conform to the world?
(language, shopping, hobbies, looks, success driven, wanting fame or “coolness,” ambitious, image conscious, greed, entertainment, recreation, fitting in). Where is the Lord speaking to you about taking a stand to be different?
 - b. Saul wanted to use God to fulfill his agenda. Where do you find it easy to justify stubbornness and selfishness while still using God language to look good?
4. There is a phrase used about Saul at his coronation, in which it says Saul was “hiding in the baggage.” Can you relate to the challenge of answering God’s call to step into your anointing, while still struggling with insecurity that comes from the baggage in your life? If you were going to take a bold step to come out of your baggage into your anointing what would that look like? What fear or concern for your own feelings of inadequacy and insecurity would you have to leave behind?
5. In Chapter 11:6, it says that when the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul, his anger was aroused and he took action against the Ammonites. What is an injustice or a work of Satan and his evil that stirs a holy anger in you? What is something you would like to ask for the courage to stand up in God and say, “No more Satan, not on my watch!”