

Spiraling: Escaping the Downward Spiral

Part 1: Calling and Victory

July 10, 2022

These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.

(1 Corinthians 10:11, New Living Translation)

There was a wealthy, influential man named Kish from the tribe of Benjamin. . . . His son Saul was the most handsome man in Israel—head and shoulders taller than anyone else in the land.

(1 Samuel 9:1–2, NLT)

And don't worry about those donkeys that were lost three days ago, for they have been found. And I am here to tell you that you and your family are the focus of all Israel's hopes.

(1 Samuel 9:20, NLT)

Saul replied, 'But I'm only from the tribe of Benjamin, the smallest tribe in Israel, and my family is the least important of all the families of that tribe! Why are you talking like this to me?'

(1 Samuel 9:21, NLT)

Humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

(Philippians 2:3, NLT)

1. Do not diminish who God has created you to be.

Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it over Saul's head. He kissed Saul and said, 'I am doing this because the Lord has appointed you to be the ruler over Israel, his special possession.'

(1 Samuel 10:1, NLT)

At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person.

(1 Samuel 10:6, NLT)

2. God's Spirit will empower you to what He called you to do.

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

(2 Peter 1:3, NLT)

Then he brought each family of the tribe of Benjamin before the Lord, and the family of the Matrites was chosen. And finally Saul son of Kish was chosen from among them. But when they looked for him, he had disappeared! So they asked the Lord, 'Where is he?' And the Lord replied, 'He is hiding among the baggage.' So they found him and brought him out, and he stood head and shoulders above anyone else.

(1 Samuel 10:21–23, NLT)

3. Being with God's people helps you ignore the doubters.

When Saul returned to his home at Gibeah, a group of men whose hearts God had touched went with him.

(1 Samuel 10:26, NLT)

Saul had been plowing a field with his oxen, and when he returned to town, he asked, 'What's the matter? Why is everyone crying?' So they told him about the message from Jabesh.

Then the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul, and he became very angry. He took two oxen and cut them into pieces and sent the messengers to carry them throughout Israel with this message: 'This is what will happen to the oxen of anyone who refuses to follow Saul and Samuel into battle!'

And the Lord made the people afraid of Saul's anger, and all of them came out together as one.

(1 Samuel 11:5–7, NLT)

4. Don't ignore your "little" flaws.