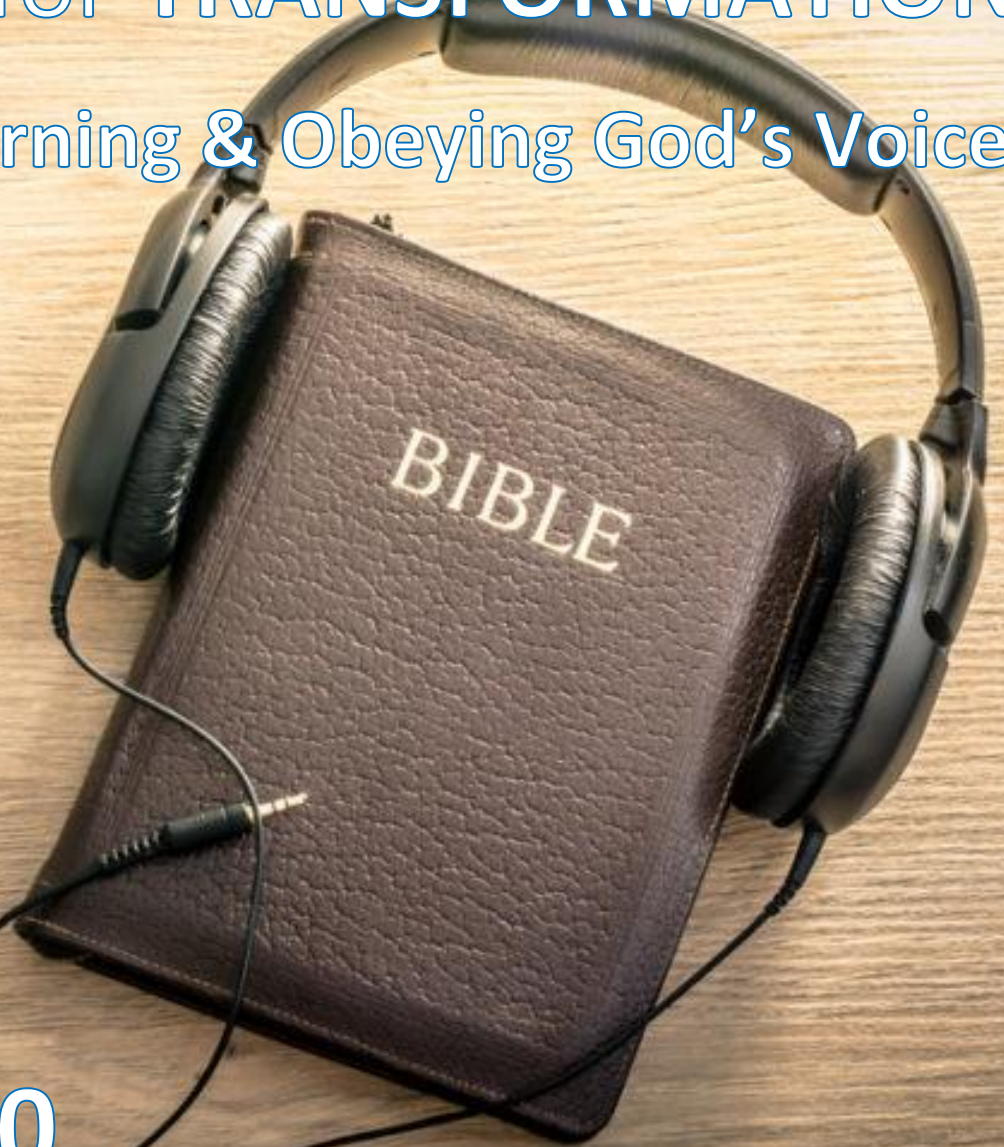

GOD'S WEAPONS for TRANSFORMATION

Part 6 – Knowing, Discerning & Obeying God's Voice



1 Samuel 24:1-20

1 Samuel 24:1 – NIV

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi.”

1 Samuel 24:2

So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.

1 Samuel 24:3

He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.

1 Samuel 24:4a

The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’”

The Background to the relationship between King Saul and David

- **David served King Saul faithfully.**
- **David's harp playing soothed the tormented soul of Saul.**
- **David was Israel's greatest soldier and commander.**
- **David was Saul's son-in-law.**
- **Saul tried to have David killed by others and then tried to directly murder him 15 different times.**



BIBLE

Principle #1

Unless the voice in your head is leading you to understand, discern, and obey the Scriptures in a way that accurately reflects God's character; most of the time, the voice in your head is not God's voice.

1 Samuel 24:4a

The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’”

What may initially appear to you or others as God's will, to the trained, discerning, and surrendered heart, may only be a temptation to violate God's will.

Principle #2

The Word of God and the Holy Spirit work together perfectly so that we can intimately know God, so that we can accurately discern His voice, and so that we can accurately understand His perfect will.

1 Samuel 24:4b

Then David crept up unnoticed
and cut off a corner of Saul's
robe.

1 Samuel 24:5

Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.

1 Samuel 24:6

He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.”

1 Samuel 24:7

With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

If a decision you have made or are about to make clearly violates Scripture, then it cannot be God's perfect will. The ends hardly ever justify the means.

Principle #3

It is dangerous to seize for yourself, in your power, the promises of God. Trust in God to accomplish His purposes for your life and the life of your family.

1 Samuel 24:8

Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.

1 Samuel 24:9

He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’?”

1 Samuel 24:10

This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave.

Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.'

1 Samuel 24:11

See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.

Principle #4

Allow your reverence for God to dictate your thoughts and actions, especially when you are unclear about what it is God wants you to do.

1 Samuel 24:12

May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.

1 Samuel 24:13

As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.

1 Samuel 24:14

“Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?”

1 Samuel 24:15

May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.”

Principle #5

God's promises are designed to be received as divine gifts of grace. You will never be able to receive the perfect gifts God has in store for you by grasping, maneuvering, or seizing.

1 Samuel 24:16

When David finished saying this,
Saul asked, “Is that your voice,
David my son?” And he wept
aloud.

1 Samuel 24:17

**“You are more righteous than I,”
he said. “You have treated me
well, but I have treated you
badly.”**

1 Samuel 24:18

You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me.

1 Samuel 24:19

When a man finds his enemy,
does he let him get away
unharméd? May the Lord reward
you well for the way you treated
me today.

1 Samuel 24:20

I know that you will surely be king
and that the kingdom of Israel
will be established in your hands.

Principle #6

As individuals, we will be held accountable for our decisions and our actions. Every decision we make has a consequence. God gives each of us a choice to make.

We have to choose whether to receive God's blessings or a curse.

Deuteronomy 11:26

“Look, today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!

Deuteronomy 11:27

You will be blessed if you obey
the commands of the Lord your
God that I am giving you today.

Deuteronomy 11:28

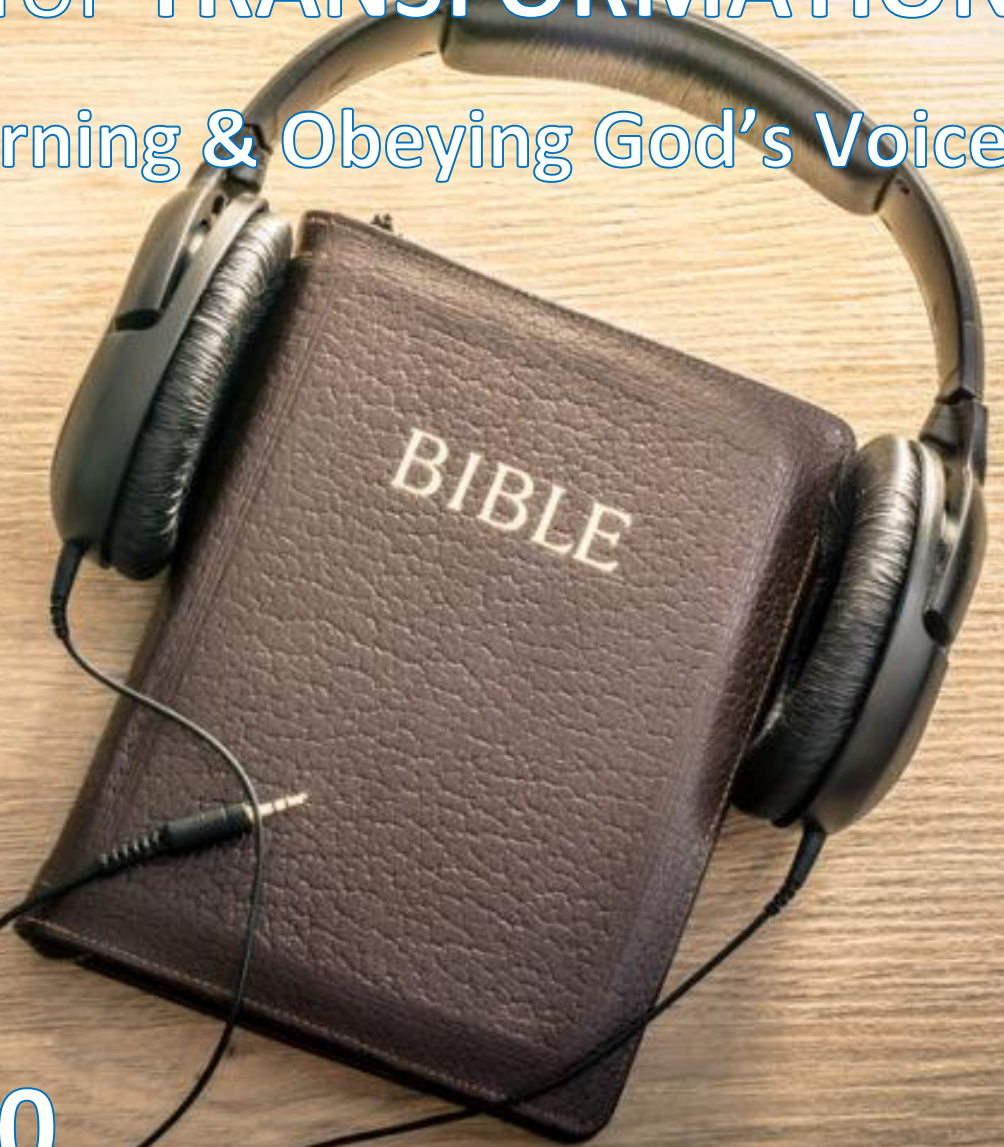
But you will be cursed if you reject the commands of the Lord your God and turn away from him and worship gods you have not known before.

Principle #7

If you choose to live in accordance with God's Word and under the influence of the Holy Spirit, then you can write God a blank check for your life and trust in His timing. God is faithful!

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1 Samuel 24:1-20