moved by, born of, taught by, walking by, in step with, live by, please, sharing in, speaking by, with the help of, or carried along by the Spirit.

Like any relationship, this one has to grow. We have to learn how to work with and through the Spirit.

**How are you going to do this?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aware</th>
<th>listening</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>obeying</td>
<td>valuing</td>
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<tr>
<td>trying</td>
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Now we come back to Saul. It started well but Saul never developed a relationship with the Spirit. He never learned to work with what he received. This would not have been the end of the world but Saul went a step further he seems to have resisted the work the Spirit. The list given above informs us that it is possible to have a really bad relationship with the Spirit. King Saul seems to be the poster boy for this.

**In the end two things happen to him.**

The Spirit of the Lord departs from Saul, He no longer works with him. An evil Spirit from the LORD torments him. The assumption is that it is the same Spirit – it is the Holy Spirit that comes from God. It is not the Spirit that is evil, it is the relationship between Saul and the Spirit that becomes evil. A relationship that was intended to be a co-operation becomes an opposition. A relationship of enemies.

**Whose fault is this? What should Saul have done?**

The result of this is that Saul loses it. He appears to end up tormented, possibly he has some sort of breakdown, David is brought in to play the harp to calm him down when he has one of these episodes.

David who witnesses this all first-hand makes an interesting comment after one of his actions that grieved the Holy Spirit. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalm 51:11-12

What do you think he meant by this?

- **Was there no hope for Saul at this point? What are the chances of us ending up like Saul?**

There is a very simple message from this study. What do you think it is?

The Holy Spirit wants partnership in your life. He will empower you in ways you cannot even imagine. But you must co-operate.

**Read 1 Samuel 19:19-23**

This is towards the end of the story. It is the last reference to Saul and the Spirit.

**How does it compare with the first time the Spirit came on Saul? How does it end up? Is this good?**

This passage serves two purposes. It is almost like this prophesyng and subsequent nakedness are the Spirit and Saul fighting. A contrast is being made to show how far Saul has fallen. But it also seems as if Saul is being given another chance to come right, to co-operate and find peace.
some of the subsequent passages that this is a reasonably lively thing. The exact nature of what is going on is not clear. Several prominent Pentecostal bible scholars have pointed out that ecstatic prophecy looks quite similar to the way we understand speaking in tongues in the New Testament. This connection is quite likely.

What did Samuel say would happen to Saul when he met these prophets? What would the result be?

A few observations.
If you know the book of Judges this will be familiar. Saul is appointed in very much the same way the Judges were. As a working class donkey wrangler he looks very much like a Judge. Several of the other Judges were empowered by the Spirit the way Saul was. In fact both Saul and David look very much like judges except that they are given the title king.

Read Acts 1:8
Read Acts 2:16-18
How was Saul’s experience in 1 Samuel like that of the believers in Acts? How was it different?
You will realise that these two passages resonate. The key difference is that what was restricted to the prophets and Saul in 1 Samuel was to be for all in Acts. But even here the experience of the prophets in Samuel is not seen as something strange, but rather the kind of thing you might see fairly often.

Samuel’s prophecy fulfilled.
Read 1 Samuel 10:9-13
What do you think “God changed his heart” mean? How was it changed?
In verse 6 it says that Saul would be “changed into a different person” what does this mean? How was he changed?
Is there a difference between heart and person?
How does this compare with the experience of the disciples in Acts 2? Were they changed? If so how?
What did Saul receive power to do?
Most obviously he received power to prophecy and this implies a relationship with God. But he receives power to be king. To do what God has called him to do. In the following chapter Saul delivers the city of Jabesh. It turns out that he is a very competent warrior. This is not all. He unites the people, he leads, he organises, he takes action.
Do you think he could have done this before the Spirit came on him? How does this compare with the Saul that we found at the start of the story?

Saul and Us
Based on the experience of Saul and the early believers in Acts, what is likely to happen to you when the Spirit comes on you?
How will your heart be changed?
What will you receive power to do?
How will you be changed into a different person?

Part 2
If this were the end of the story all would be good and we would be happy – Go King Saul! But it is not. Saul’s kingship did not develop the way we had hoped. There are some fairly clear reasons; Saul had character issues; notably inferiority and paranoia. He struggled to have a relationship with God, in fact his only relationship with God was through Samuel and when Samuel left him he had no relationship with God. He struggled with obedience. He struggled with repentance. He was way too concerned with how people saw him and not concerned enough with pleasing God. He had little passion for God. He was a great king and a poor believer!

Did receiving the Spirit ensure Saul’s success?
Why not?
Why did he not stay changed?
Things go very bad for Saul but this happens over a period of time.

A scary verse
Read 1 Samuel 16:14
What happened?
Does God send evil spirits?
Do you have a problem with this?
Just in case you thought the anonymous author of 1 Samuel had a brain freeze and wrote something stupid, the same thing is said in 16:15-16, 23, 18:10, 19:9.

What is going on here.
There are a large number of ideas as to what this verse might mean. Firstly it must be acknowledged that the Hebrew word for “evil” (ra) has a much broader range of meanings than its English equivalent. It can mean anything from ugly to suffering to disastrous. In 2 Samuel 18:32 it has the idea of opposing or standing against. That may well be the meaning here.

There are no capital letters in Hebrew so there is no difference between Spirit and spirit as there is in our English bibles, the Hebrew word is identical. There is no indication that this is a demonic spirit. The spirit is described simply as the Spirit of the LORD and then a Spirit from the LORD. In verse 15 the spirit is Spirit-God, Ruah-Elohim So there is no question the spirit is of God. The word “from” is assumed it is not in the Hebrew. Something is evil, although here the Hebrew is less clear.

Of all the possible understandings of this verse one stands out. When the Holy Spirit comes upon you the Spirit does not suddenly take control of your life turning you into a Spirit controlled robot. The relationship between the Holy Spirit and a person is a partnership. It is an act of co-operation. The Spirit does not override our free will or our personalities. It is only because of this that Paul can complain in 1 Corinthians 12:14 that the Corinthians are using the gifts of the Spirit wrong.

If the Holy Spirit was in command could you do the gifts wrong?
What is more because we are all different, the partnership the Spirit has with us is going to be different. Each of us will move in the Spirit and be empowered by the Spirit in a slightly different way. The technical term for this (in pneumatology) is to say that the infilling of the Spirit is incarnational. You can safely ignore this sentence if the words are too long.

If you look at the word that are used to describe this relationship in the bible you will realise that it is a very personal relationship. The bible talks of grieving, rebelling, resisting, insulting, quenching, lying to and blaspheming the Spirit. On a positive note being led by,