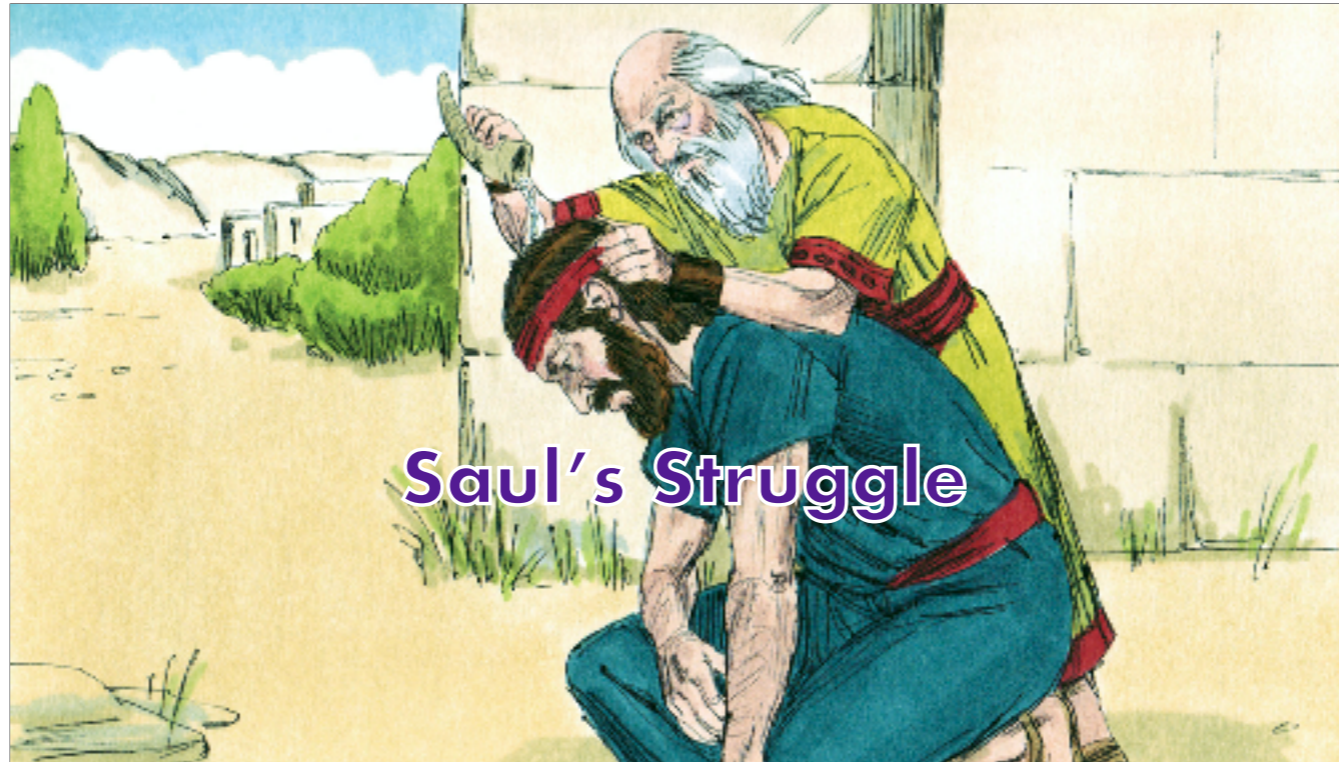
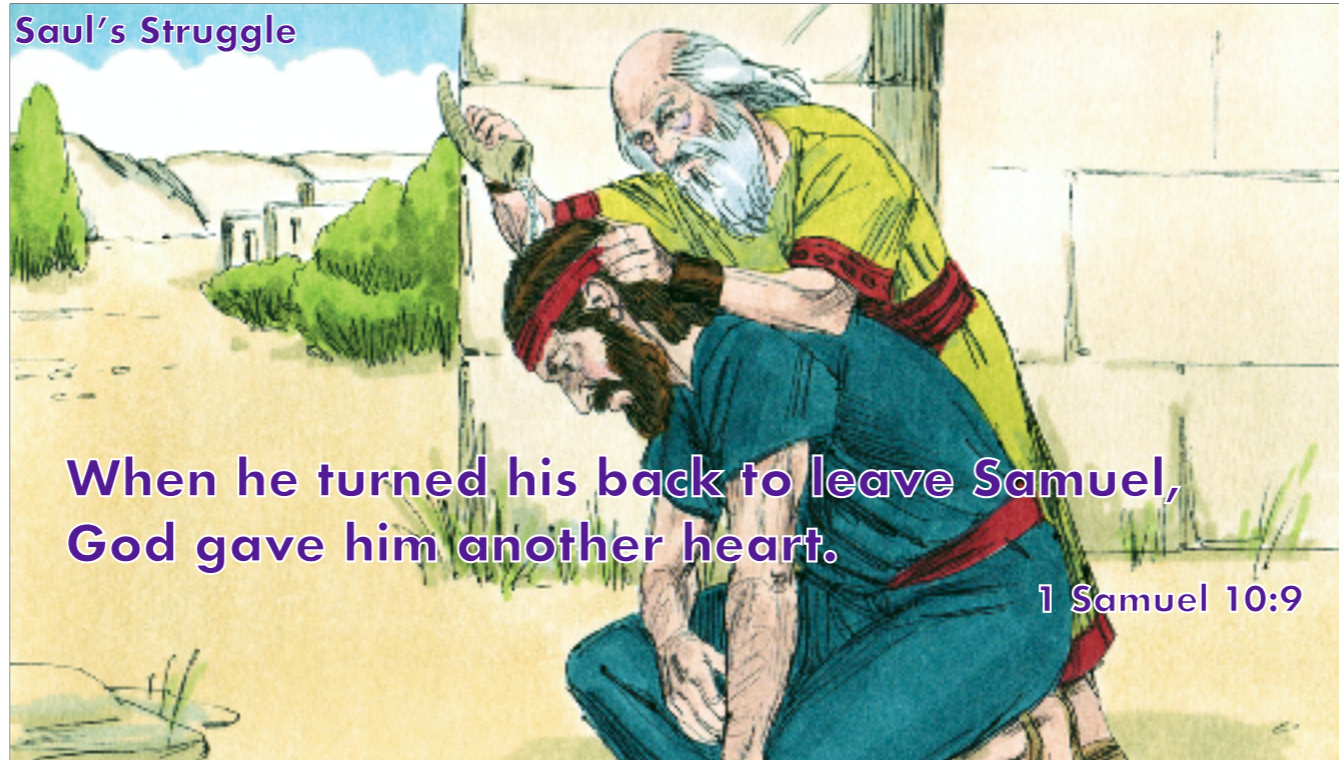


Discerning the Will of God

Romans 12:1-2



- Saul's Struggle.



- 1 Samuel 10:9: When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day.

Saul's Struggle



So I forced myself
1 Samuel 13:12

- 1 Samuel 13:11-14 (ESV) 11 Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash,
- 12 I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”

Saul's Struggle



So I forced myself
1 Samuel 13:12

You have done foolishly
1 Samuel 13:13

- 13 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

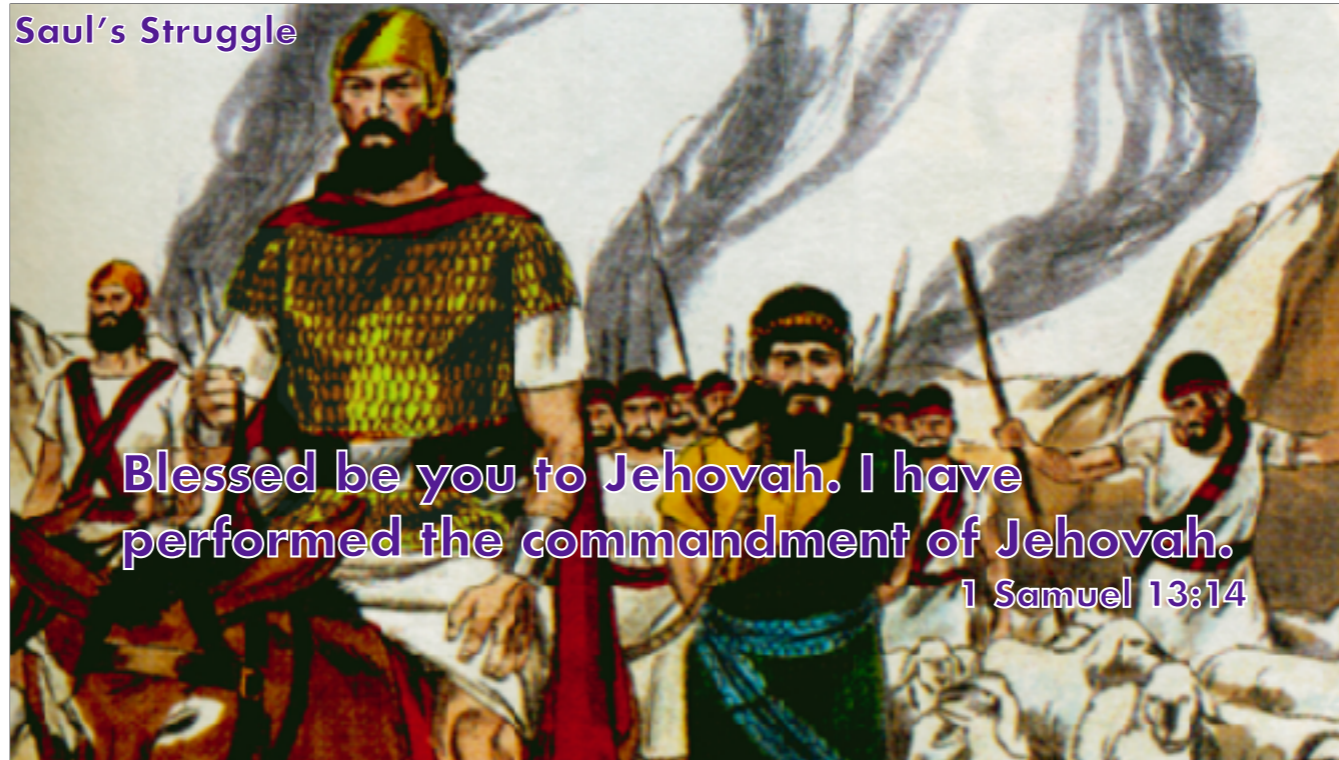
Saul's Struggle



Jehovah has sought out
a man after His own heart
1 Samuel 13:14

- 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

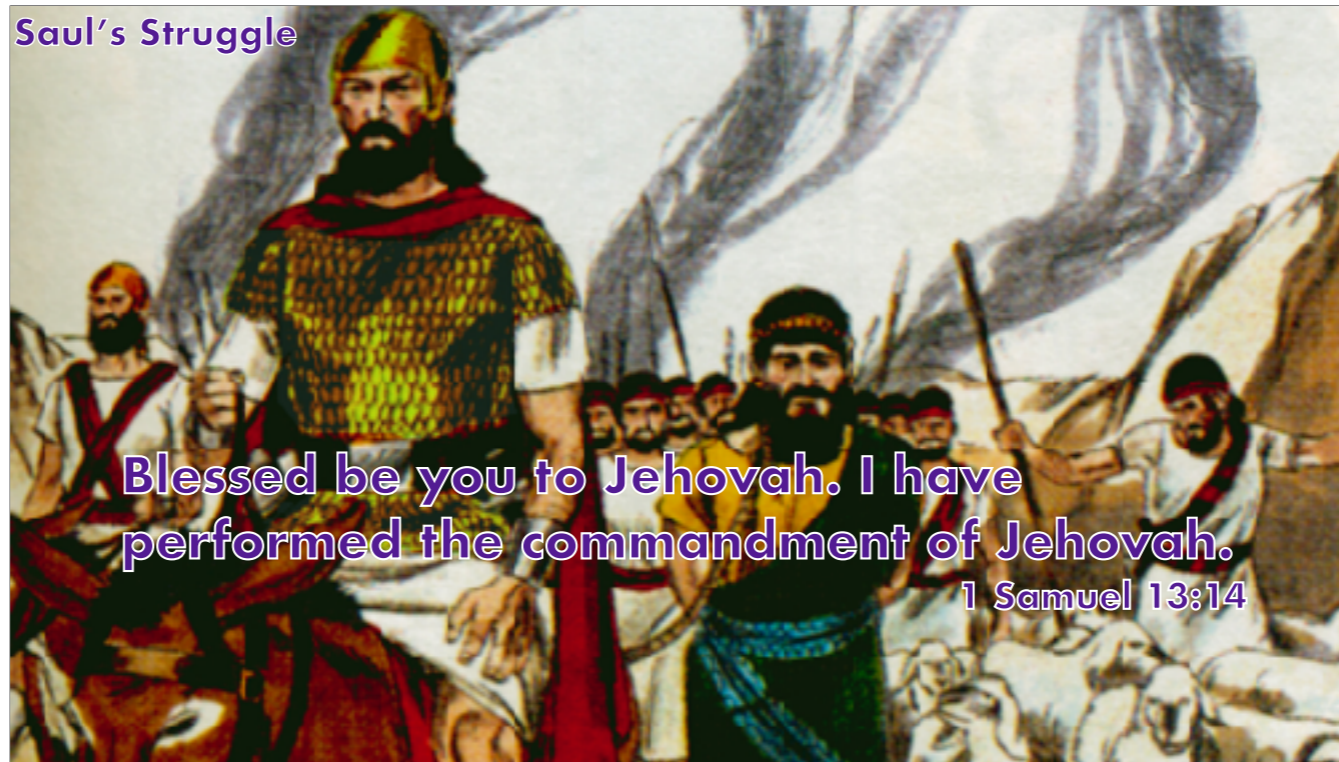
Saul's Struggle



Blessed be you to Jehovah. I have performed the commandment of Jehovah.
1 Samuel 13:14

- 1 Samuel 15:10-13 (ESV) 10 The word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11 “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and **has not performed my commandments.**” And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night. 12 And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal.” 13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.”

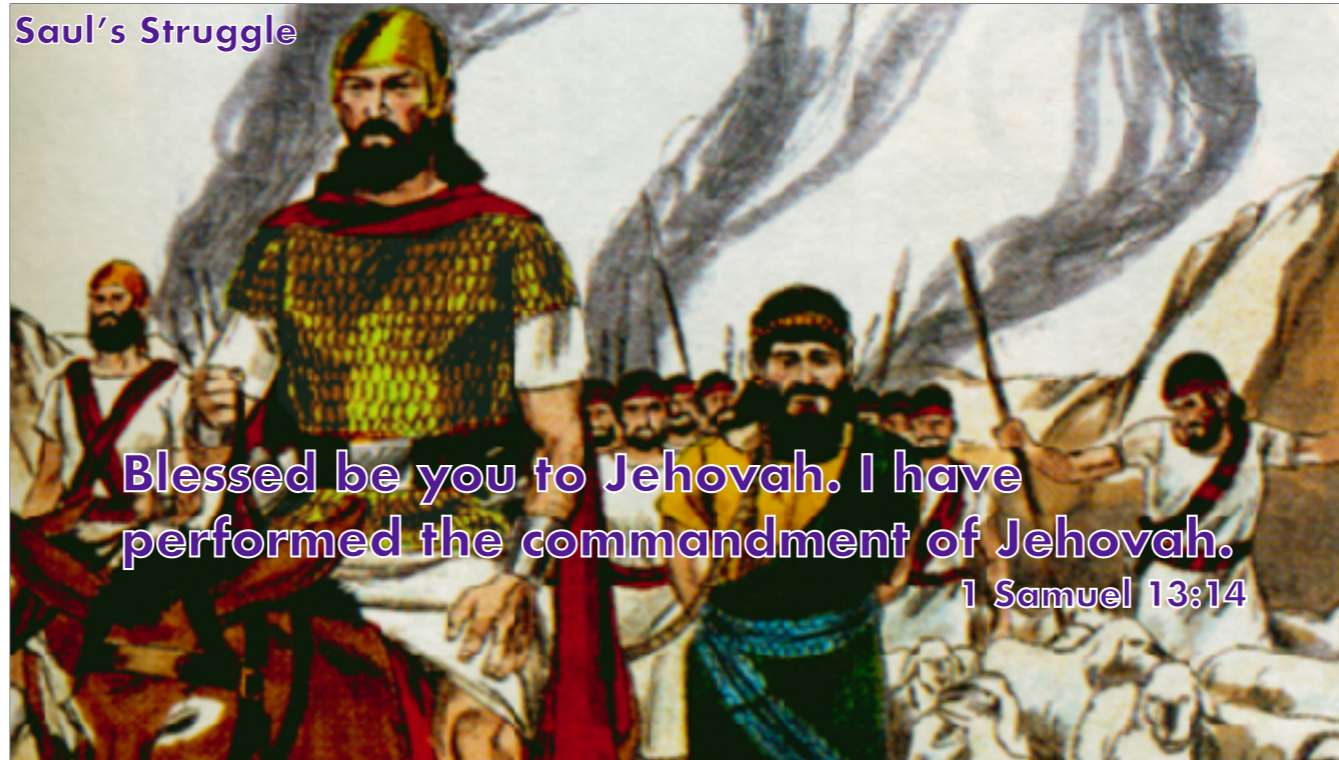
Saul's Struggle



Blessed be you to Jehovah. I have performed the commandment of Jehovah.
1 Samuel 13:14

- 1 Samuel 15:15 (ESV) Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for **the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction.**”

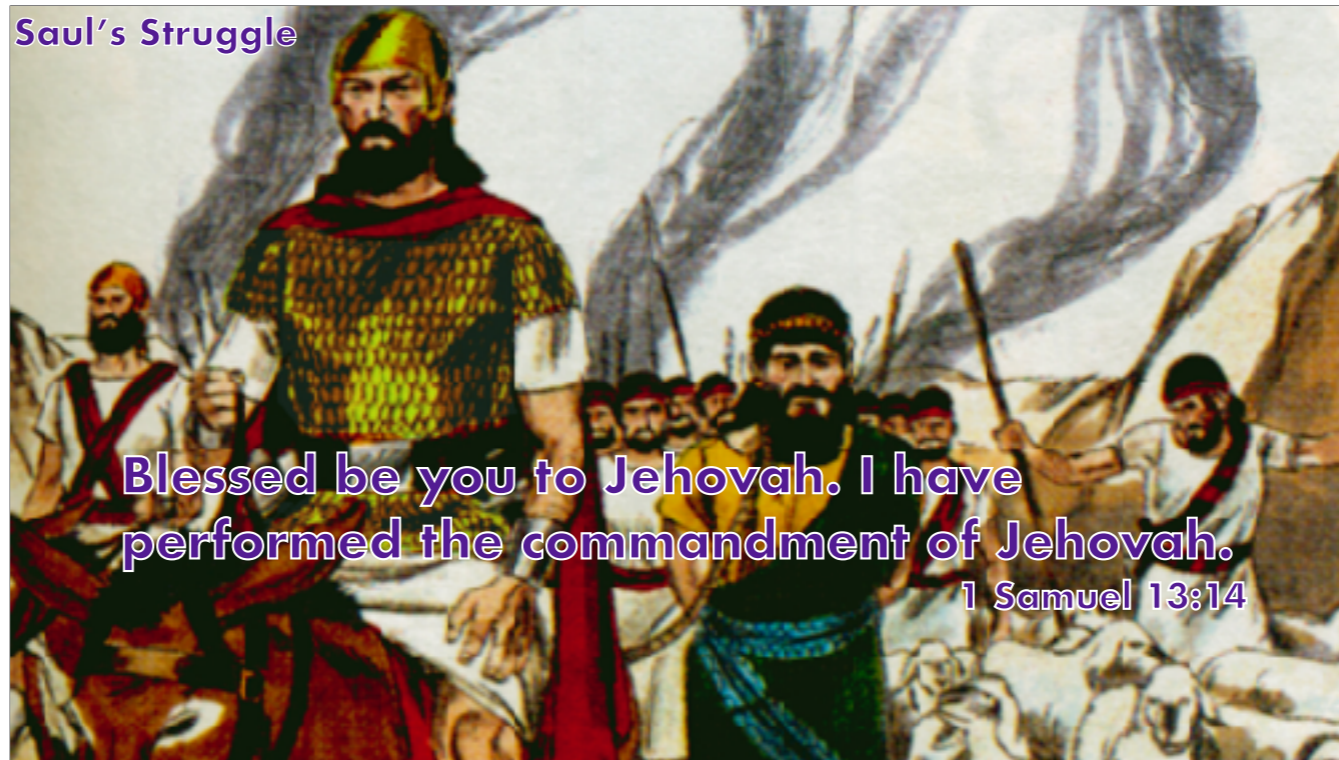
Saul's Struggle



Blessed be you to Jehovah. I have performed the commandment of Jehovah.
1 Samuel 13:14

- 1 Samuel 15:19-21 (ESV) 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" 20 And Saul said to Samuel, "**I have obeyed the voice of the Lord.** I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

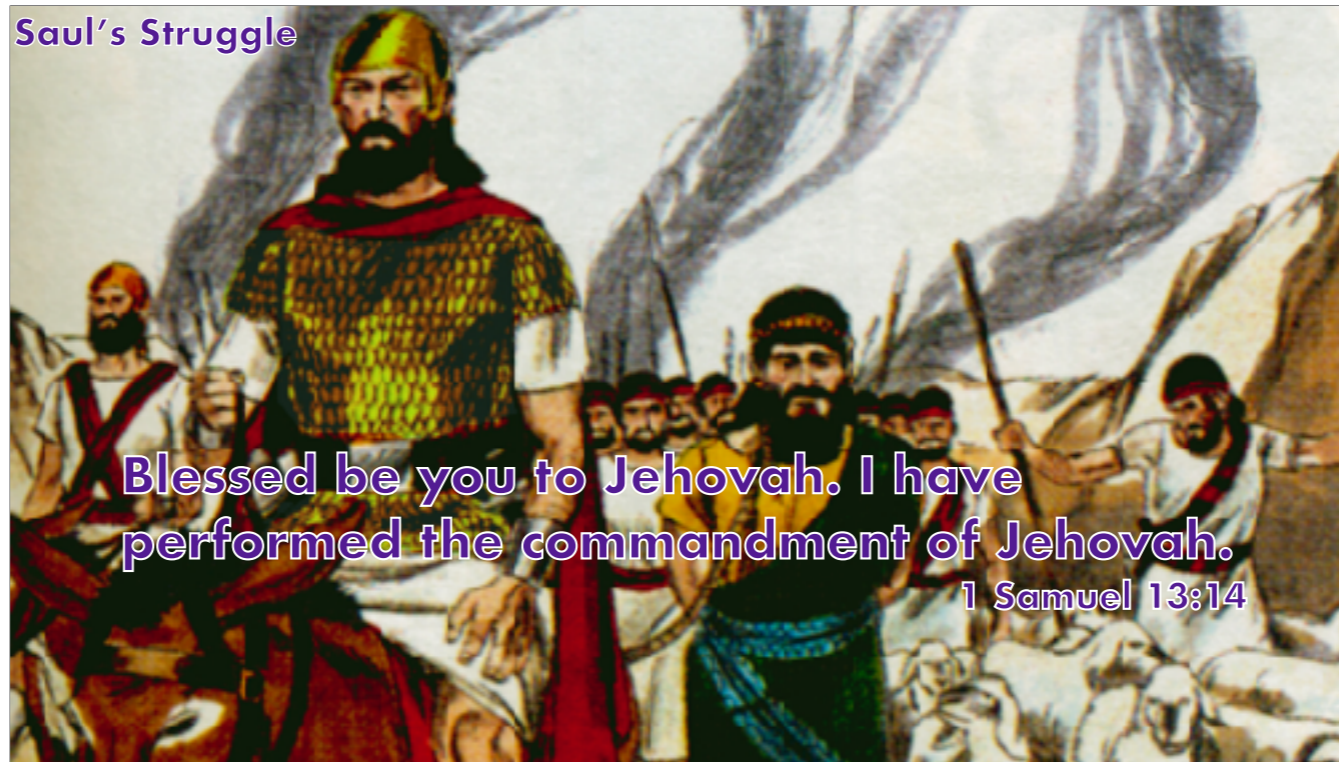
Saul's Struggle



Blessed be you to Jehovah. I have
performed the commandment of Jehovah.
1 Samuel 13:14

- I have obeyed
 - Gone on mission Jehovah sent me
 - brought Agag
 - devoted Amelekites to destruction
 - People: took spoil, best things, to sacrifice

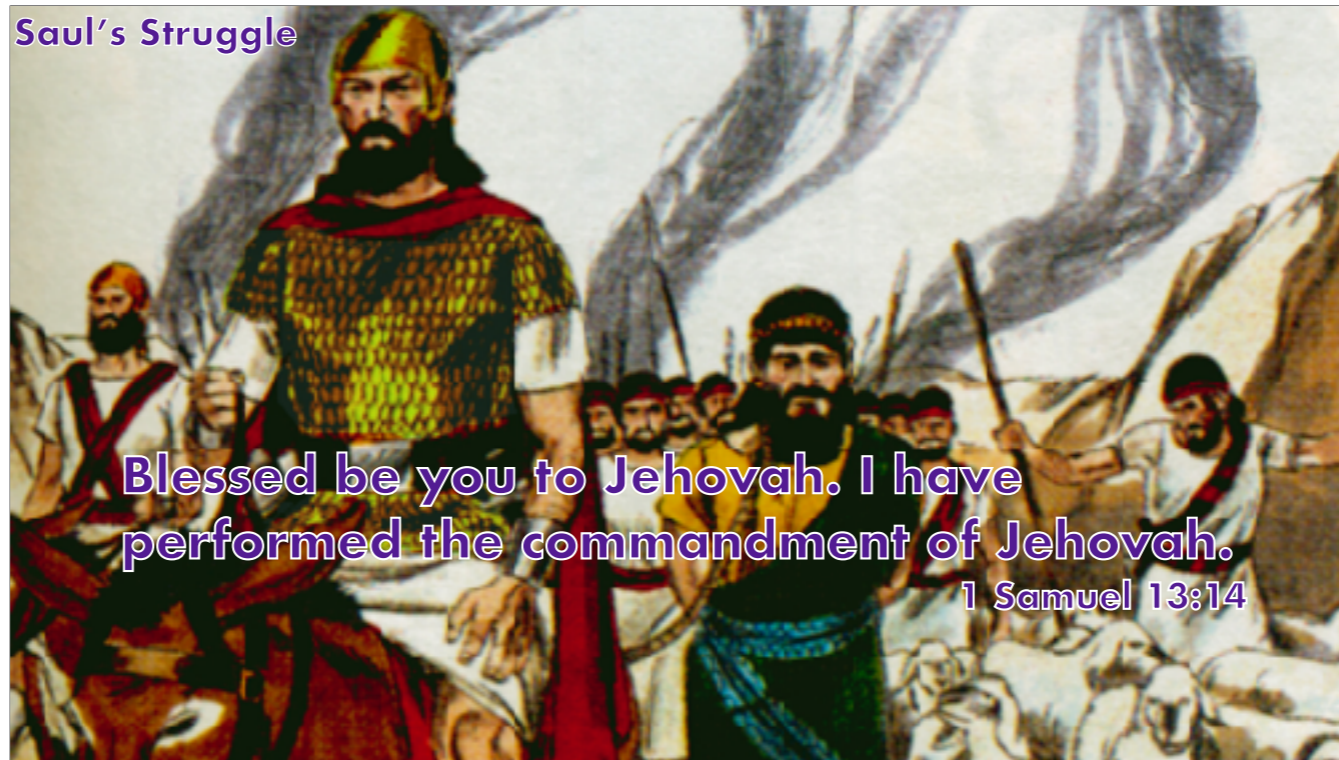
Saul's Struggle



Blessed be you to Jehovah. I have
performed the commandment of Jehovah.
1 Samuel 13:14

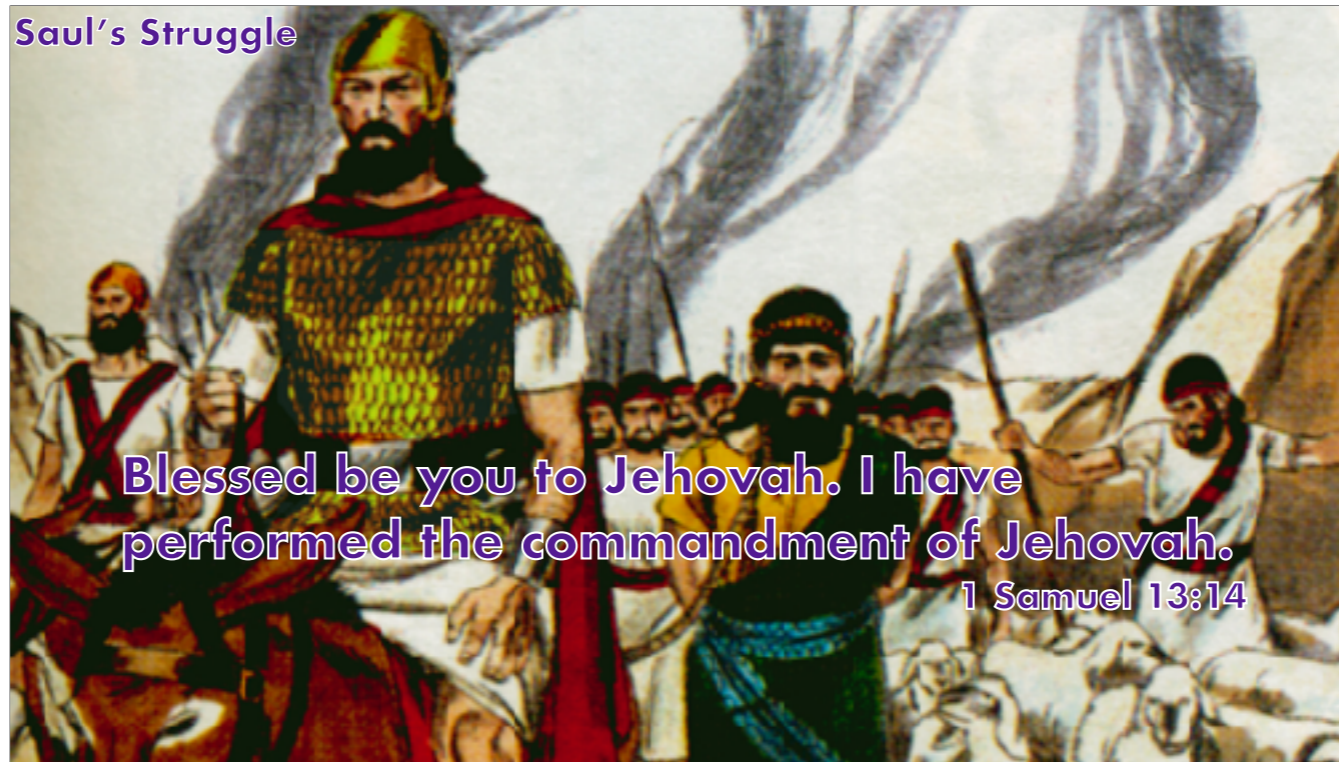
- Why did Saul have such a hard time discerning God's will?
 - It wasn't that God's will was unknown or mysterious.
 - It wasn't that he didn't understand.
 - Rather, he chose to "interpret" what God's will was through his own thought and desires

Saul's Struggle



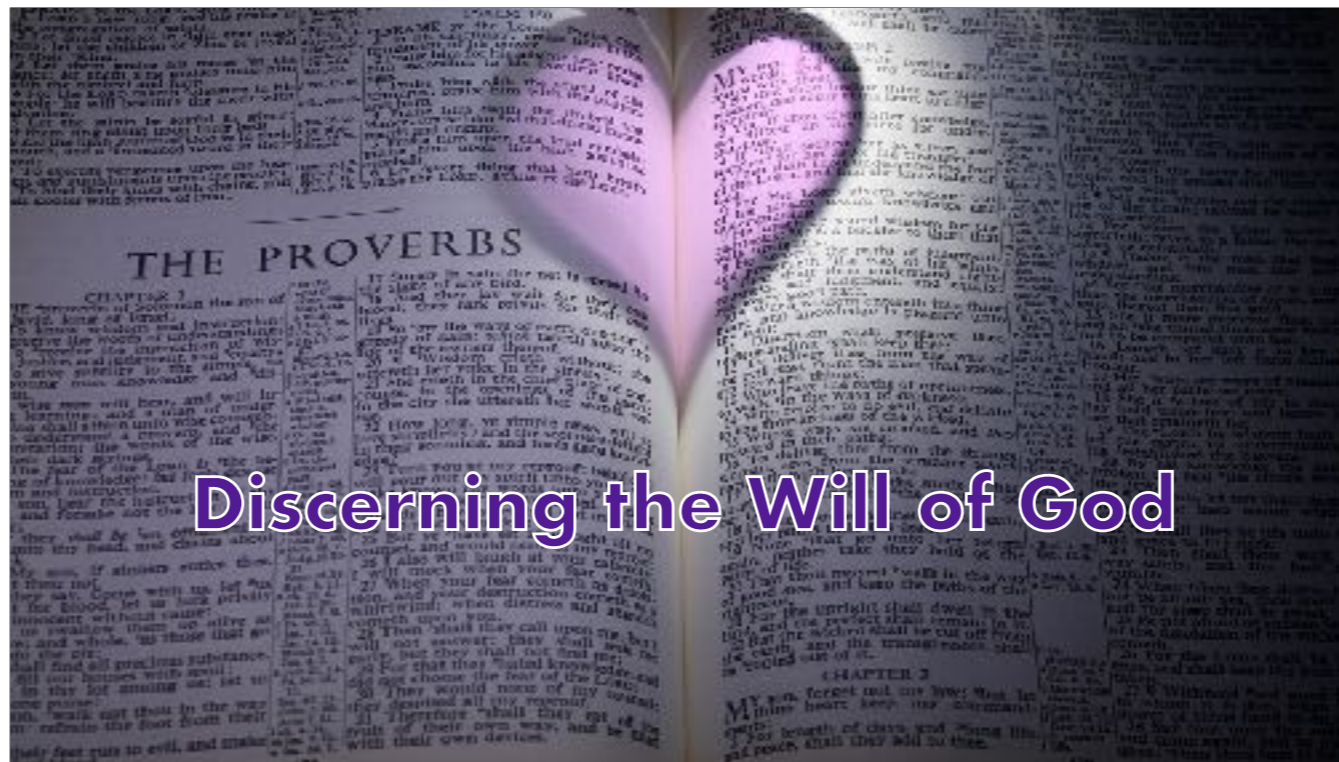
- Battle:
 - people scattering
 - Samuel didn't come
 - Not sought favor of Jehovah
 - forced myself
- Amalekites
 - Spared Agag ... ? Mercy to king? Demonstrate superiority?
 - Utterly destroyed Amalekites
 - All that was despised and worthless
 - People (diverting)
 - Kept spoil, sheep, oxen (best things) for sacrifice

Saul's Struggle



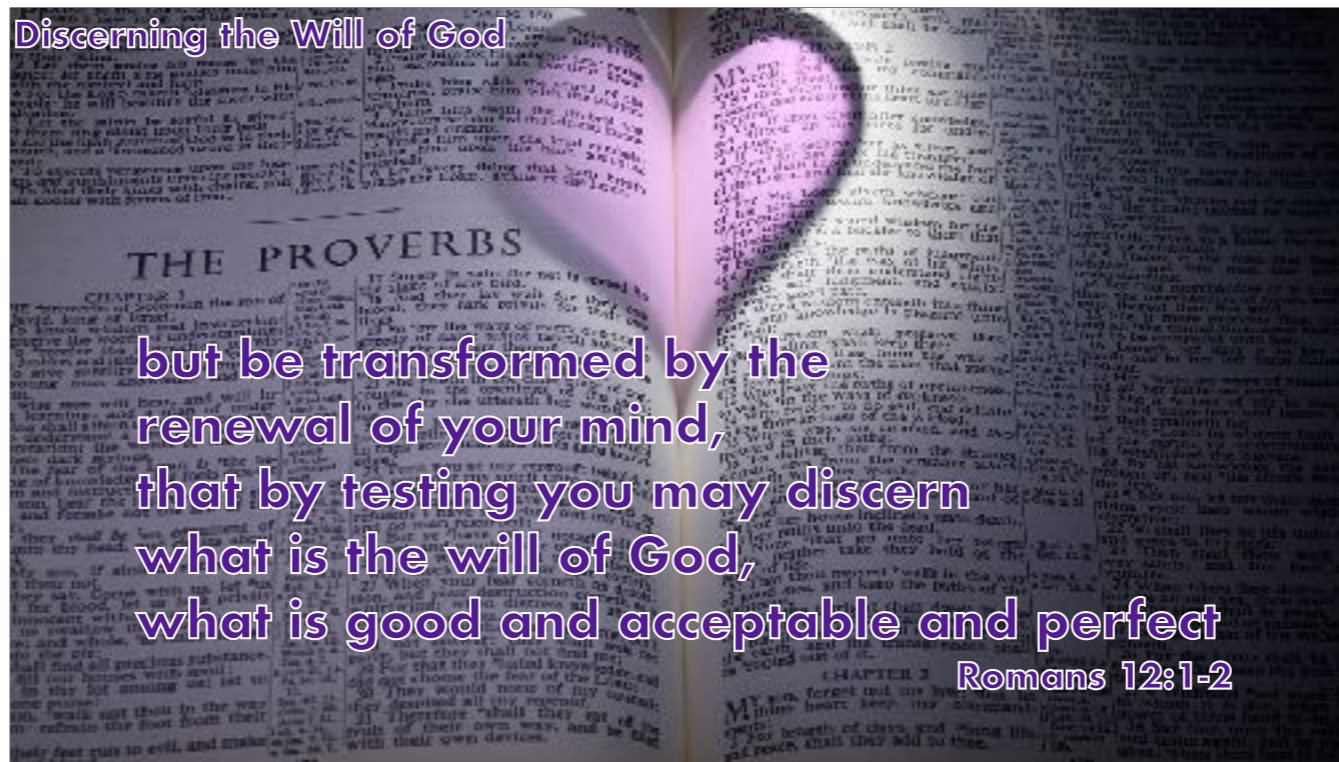
Blessed be you to Jehovah. I have
performed the commandment of Jehovah.
1 Samuel 13:14

- And call it obedience.
 - It's a heart problem
- Reality: This is the same problem most of us have with discerning God's will.
 - It's not about knowing
 - It's about following
 - It's about accepting that God's way is the best way
 - not about my thinking of better ideas or interpretations



Discerning the Will of God

- Romans 12:1-2



- Romans 12:1-2 (ESV) 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



but be transformed by the
renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may discern
what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable and perfect
Romans 12:1-2

- The will of God
 - good (excellent)
 - acceptable (pleasing)
 - perfect (complete, full)



Discerning the Will of God

but be transformed by the
renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may discern
what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable and perfect
Romans 12:1-2

- by testing you may discern
 - (NETFull) so that you may test and approve what is the will of God - what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.
- (MED) It carries the idea of a critical examination of something to determine its genuineness.
- (ESV SB Notes) has the sense of finding out the worth of something by putting it to use or testing it in actual practice



Discerning the Will of God

but be transformed by the
renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may discern
what is the will of God,
what is good and acceptable and perfect
Romans 12:1-2


• Transformed...

- Turn away from my own will: foolishness
- Turn away from ignoring God's commands
- Seek to understand completely God's will
- Seek to follow God's will eagerly
- What does God want me to do?



- Genesis 4:3-9 (ESV) 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. 6 The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.” 8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?”

Consider Cain



Jehovah said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

Genesis 4:6-7

- Jehovah spoke encouragingly to Cain despite his sin.
 - Cain could be accepted if he did well ... he knew what to do!
 - Cain could rule over sin.
- Cain had to see that Jehovah's way was better
 - But in his anger and hatred, he murdered Abel
 - Am I my brother's keeper? selfishness, dismissal.
 - Evil



Consider Cain

Jehovah said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

Genesis 4:6-7

- How did Cain react to Jehovah's rebuke?
- Proverbs 3:11-12 (ESV) 11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.
- How do I react to Jehovah's discipline?



Consider Cain

Jehovah said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."


Genesis 4:6-7

- What if Cain had listened to Jehovah?
 - What if Cain had done well?
 - Transform mind
 - Set aside anger
 - Faith toward God
 - Love for brother
- If we do well, will be accepted?



- Transformed Hearts


Transformed Hearts

A close-up photograph of a human hand held palm up, cradling a glowing, translucent heart. Inside the heart, a map of the Americas is visible, with a bright yellow light emanating from the center. The background is dark, making the glowing heart stand out.

that by testing you may discern
what is the will of God,
Romans 12:1-2

- What is required in me to discern God's will?
- First I must be able and willing to distinguish between my will and God's will.

Transformed Hearts

A close-up photograph of a hand held palm up, cradling a glowing, translucent heart. Inside the heart, a map of the world is visible, with a bright light emanating from the center. The background is dark, making the glowing heart stand out.

Live for the rest of the time in the flesh
no longer for human passions
but for the will of God.

1 Peter 4:2

- Struggle is with our passions, and rationalizing our will to be God's will.
 - 1Peter 4:2: so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.


Transformed Hearts



Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear Jehovah, and turn away from evil.
Proverbs 3:7

- We tend to conflate our own will and desires with God's will.
 - Proverbs 3:5-8 (ESV) 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and **do not lean on your own understanding.** 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 **Be not wise in your own eyes;** fear the Lord, and **turn away from evil.** 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

Transformed Hearts


A close-up photograph of a person's hand, palm up, holding a glowing, translucent heart. Inside the heart, a map of the United States is visible, with a bright yellow light emanating from the center. The background is dark, making the glowing heart stand out.

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,
and shrewd in their own sight!

Isaiah 5:21

- Our struggle is with our “what if” and “but”
 - Isaiah 5:20-21 (ESV) 20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!

Transformed Hearts


A pair of hands is shown from a low angle, cupping a glowing heart. The heart is bright yellow and orange, with a map of the world visible inside it. The background is dark, making the heart and hands stand out.

Trust in Jehovah with all your heart ...
In all your ways acknowledge Him ...
Fear Jehovah ...
It will be healing to your flesh and
refreshment to your bones

Proverbs 3:5-8

- Second submission to God's will.
 - Actively choose to follow God's will.
 - Actively choose to not give in to my will.
- Proverbs 3:5-8 (ESV) 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.
 - Trust Jehovah
 - Acknowledge Jehovah
 - Fear Jehovah
- These are the reasons we choose to submit to God's will!

Transformed Hearts

A hand is shown from the bottom, cupping a glowing heart. Inside the heart is a map of the world, with a bright light emanating from the center. The background is dark, making the heart and hand stand out.

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

1 Peter 2:15

- Do it.
 - 1Peter 2:15: For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
- God's will is not just
 - theological
 - theoretical
- Intended to help us live!

Transformed Hearts




For this is the will of God, your sanctification
1 Thessalonians 4:3

- Keep Ultimate Purpose our Focus...

- 1Thessalonians 4:3-8: For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Transformed Hearts

A hand is shown from the bottom, cupping a glowing heart. The heart is bright yellow and orange, with a map of the world visible inside it. The background is dark, making the heart and hand stand out.

Therefore do not be foolish,
but understand what the will of the Lord is.
Ephesians 5:17

- Ephesians 5:15-21: Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

- Will you choose to be like Cain and Saul?
- Will you choose to transform your mind to discern and do God's will?

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Be Transformed

#08

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2020 June 21
www.1corinthians1614.com

Discerning the Will of God

Romans 12:1-2

Synopsis: The transforming of our minds is so that we can discern God's will and choose to follow it. We'll learn why this is a real struggle for us and the importance and blessing of whole heartedly following God's will. Concept "borrowed" from Darrel Yontz ... again.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."