

“The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice. Saul was then afraid of David, for the Lord was with David and had turned away from Saul.” 1 Samuel 18:10-12 NLT

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These kind of passages in the Bible ought to really mess up our neat and tidy theology. God sent a tormenting spirit? And... AND God had turned away from Saul. Yet, God let him run out his life, still King of Israel, all along making horrible choices, vindictive, crazy decisions that were carried out because he was king. We know that even when David had several opportunities to end Saul's life, justifiably so, he would not “touch God's anointed!” Even though, truthfully, Saul was no longer the anointed one - David was. Who will ever understand the long suffering of God, the mercy and patience of God, even when it is not deserved and causes so much harm to so many? Who can truly understand God's ways? Not me, for sure. Then in this long-running theme between Saul and David, Samuel writes, “Saul was afraid of David.” Afraid? Of what? It wasn't David's physical power, it was his political and popular power! David's fame was constantly growing and Saul's was constantly shrinking. Saul tried over and over to set up actual DEATH TRAPS on David's life, but they not only failed, he became more popular each time. All that power as a king and he couldn't just kill his enemy! Why? Because David was only an enemy in Saul's messed up mental state, the court, the kingdom, his own daughters LOVED David. How do you solve that problem? I've seen so many senior or lead pastors of a churches get trapped by this very dilemma. You just can't have someone more popular, more favored than THE Pastor! I've even lived through it myself. Fear of someone else's favor is a human failure of understanding the Kingdom of God. And, what a mess it has caused in all of our institutional sectors of society, not just the church. Eventually Saul was killed, David rose to power, then David became a very similar kind of King as his predecessor.

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Dad,

I'm sure there are many reasons for leadership crisis in the Church worldwide today. It is so odd that leadership requires confidence and a healthy self awareness, but it also requires humility and playing down so many opportunities to self promote. It is demanding because of our internal drives for success and others perception as well as many external drives of people who want that brash, decisive, command and conquer attitude, they just want any of that kind of “king-ness” aimed at them in negative ways. We want it and people want it, but it is so deadly to handle improperly.

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rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root