

Devotional Thoughts :: CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART by David Wilkerson

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If there had been no prophet like Nathanâ€™no piercing, prophetic wordâ€™David could have ended up like Saul: spiritually dead, with no Holy Ghost guidance, having lost all intimacy with God.

As David listened to Nathanâ€™s loving but searing word, he remembered the time a previous king had been warned by a prophet. David had heard all about the prophet Samuelâ€™s warning to King Saul. And he had heard about Saulâ€™s halfhearted response, confessing, â€œI have sinned.â€ (I donâ€™t believe Saul cried from his soul, as David did, â€œI have sinned against the Lord!â€)

David saw firsthand the ruinous changes that befell Saul. The once godly, Spirit-led king continually rejected the Spiritâ€™s reproving words, delivered by a holy prophet. Soon Saul began to walk in self-will, bitterness and rebellion. Finally, the Holy Ghost departed from him: â€œBecause thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being kingâ€ (1 Samuel 15:23). â€œThe Lord . . . departed from Saulâ€ (18:12) and Saul ended up turning to a witch for guidance. He confessed to her, â€œGod is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall doâ€ (1 Samuel 28:15).

David remembered all the madness, ugliness and terror surrounding this man who had shut out Godâ€™s word. Suddenly, the truth pierced his own heart: â€œGod is no respecter of persons. I have sinned, as Saul did. And now hereâ€™s another prophet, in another time, giving me a word from God, as Samuel gave to Saul. Oh, Lord, Iâ€™ve sinned against you! Please donâ€™t take your Holy Spirit from me, as you did from Saul.â€

David wrote, â€œI acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight. . . . Purge me. . . . Create in me a clean heart. . . . Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from meâ€ (Psalm 51:3-4, 7, 10-11).