

**Recap of 9/21/25 message by Pastor Chris Sommerfield
("Don't Dabble in Darkness") 1 Samuel 28:3-25**

- In this passage, Saul's actions reflect a tragic shift from God's guidance to seeking answers through forbidden means. His desperation leads him to consult a medium, demonstrating the depths of his spiritual decline and the consequences of disobedience to God's commands. First, we see that separation from God brings silence. Saul tries to "inquire of the LORD," but "the LORD did not answer him." Saul is already separate from God due to his disobedience, which he is reminded of in this chapter. We too sometimes expect God to be there and answer us when we live lives that dishonor Him. By God's grace He will never leave us nor forsake us. Yet we must not treat God like a genie expecting blessing and answers upon demand. He is faithful and He is good, and we need to remind ourselves of this and turn our lives back to Him when we disobey.
- **Second**, we see an example of seeking God in darkness. In his fear Saul turns to a medium in an attempt to hear from God, something He knows is forbidden. Still, he chooses to seek out this medium. She finally agrees to "conjure up Samuel," and is shocked when he appears. She isn't expecting this manifestation of the true Samuel. She is either a charlatan, or she has conjured something in the past due to demonic power, but never like this. This teaches us that mediums have no real power over the dead, especially those who are rescued from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of the Son (Col. 1:13). They can only produce counterfeits or lie and create a charade. In this instance, God graciously allows Saul to speak with Samuel one last time and Samuel reminds him of his disobedience and its impending consequence.
- **Third**, we see that as believers we must live in the light. Having been rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of the Son of God, we must live like it. We err when we attribute too much power to Satan and his demons and live in fear. If we think there is a demon affecting everything around us, we create a false sense of reality that over emphasizes their power giving demons godlike characteristics. Demons are created beings, angels that have fallen in rebellion against God. They are not omniscient, omnipresent, nor omnipotent. Only God is, and greater is He who lives in you than he who lives in the world (1 Jn 4:4). Conversely, we must never be flippant regarding Satan, demons, and the occult. It is real and we must be careful not to dismiss spiritual warfare nor be tempted to incorporate these practices into our faith. God is very clear about this, and He decides how He should be worshipped. Syncretism (mixing non-Christian beliefs with Christian beliefs) is quite dangerous and can pull us away from God. So, in order to live in the light we must confess our sin and repent, turning to God, and submitting to Him by following His Word (1 Jn 1:5-10).