

Recap of 9/28/25 message by Pastor Steve Plank
("Strength in the Lord") 1 Samuel 29:1-30:31

David put himself in a horrible position by deciding to subject his men to Achish to escape Saul (1 Sa 27). In 1 Sa 29, God uses the other Philistine lords' distrust of David to providentially save him from having to fight against his own people. It is good to be a child of God because **sometimes God providentially protects His people in bad situations**. He doesn't always save us from the consequences of our bad decisions, but I'm sure we can all look back on your life and see many instances of God providentially protecting us.

David learned from his mistake of fleeing to Achish. When he and his men return to Ziklag and find it burned to the ground and their families and possessions captured by the Amalekites, despair sinks in. Instead of letting that despair lead him into more foolishness, David turns to the LORD his God and everything works out for the best. **When despair or grief strikes, we must strengthen ourselves in the LORD**. We do this by submitting to Him, resisting Satan, drawing near to God in obedience, cleansing our hands through confession, and purifying our hearts by accepting God's ways instead of man's (Jas 4:7-8). This won't immediately take away the despair or grief, but it is the best way through it.

After David and his men defeat the Amalekites, rescue their families, and gain not only their own possessions, but also the spoil the Amalekites had taken from Israelite territory, David shows great generosity. The key to a generous heart is realizing that everything we have is a gift from God (1 Sa 30:23). David generously sows of the spoil to his men and to the towns in Judah that were helping him as he evaded Saul. He will later reap their support for his kingship. **We reap what we sow**. Prosperity gospel proponents tell us that the way to material wealth is through giving materially to their church. However, God's Word (2 Cor 9:6-11) tells us that when we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully, not to enrich ourselves, but so we can sow even more to God's purposes. As Pastor Joe commented, "when God finds a cheerful giver, He makes sure that person has plenty to give." There is nothing wrong with being wealthy if we don't let that wealth separate us from God's work in our lives.