



# DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

## Daily Devotionals:

On Sunday, we walked through 1 Samuel 12 and considered Samuel's farewell address to Israel. We saw how Samuel stood before the people with bold integrity, inviting them to examine his leadership and reminding them of God's covenant faithfulness. Though Israel had rejected God's kingship by demanding a king like the nations, the Lord responded with both justice and mercy, granting their request not to condemn them but to teach them. We witnessed how Samuel brought a covenant lawsuit against the people, called them to remember God's mighty acts, and even summoned a miraculous storm as a divine sign of their guilt. Yet in their fear and repentance, Samuel interceded, modeling the heart of a godly leader. In his final charge, he called them and us to fear the Lord, serve Him wholeheartedly, and remember the great things He has done. Ultimately, we were reminded that while Israel had Samuel, we have Christ, our true and better King, who bore our judgment, intercedes for us, and reigns in mercy and truth.

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## Monday: The Power of Integrity

### Scripture Reading:

*And Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. And now behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before His anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you." They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand." And he said to them, "The Lord is witness against you, and His anointed is*

*witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” And they said, “He is witness.” – 1 Samuel 12:1–5 (ESV)*

## **Devotional:**

Samuel stood in front of the people and opened his life for all to see. He had led them for years, and now, before stepping down, he asked if anyone had anything against him. “Whose ox have I taken? Whom have I oppressed?” He wasn’t being proud. He was being honest. His leadership wasn’t perfect, but it was clean. He had nothing to hide.

This kind of integrity is rare. We’re used to people protecting their image, hiding mistakes, and avoiding hard questions. But Samuel’s example shows us that real strength comes from living in the light. He didn’t wait for people to dig up his past. He invited them to look. His confidence came from a clear conscience, not a perfect record.

God is still calling us to this kind of life. Whether you lead in a home, a church, a school, or a job, integrity matters. Your reputation is not what people say about you. It’s what God sees in you. When we live with honesty, we become trustworthy. When we walk in truth, our lives point to Him.

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. Could you say to others what Samuel said: “Here I am”?
2. Are there any parts of your life you are hiding or avoiding?
3. What steps can you take to grow in integrity this week?

## **Prayer:**

Lord, help me to live with honesty and courage. I don’t want to hide or pretend. Make my heart clean and my actions true. Teach me to do what is right, even when no one is watching. I want to reflect Your character in everything I do. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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# **Tuesday: The Pattern of Grace**

## **Scripture Reading:**

*And Samuel said to the people, “The Lord is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. Now therefore stand still, that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of*

*the Lord that He performed for you and for your fathers. When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord, and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.” – 1 Samuel 12:6–8 (ESV)*

## **Devotional:**

Samuel reminds the people that before anything else, they need to remember what God has done. God brought their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. He raised up Moses and Aaron. He answered their cries and gave them freedom. Before pointing out their failures, God points to His faithfulness.

This is how God works. He doesn't start by shaming us. He starts by reminding us of His goodness. That's because remembering God's kindness is what softens our hearts. When we forget what God has done, we start depending on ourselves. We make poor choices when we lose sight of His help in the past.

Samuel tells the people to “stand still.” In other words, slow down and think. Before moving forward, take time to remember God's grace. That's something we need too. In the middle of our schedules, fears, and decisions, we need to pause and reflect. When we remember how God has cared for us, it helps us trust Him again.

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. What are some ways God has been faithful to you in the past?
2. Are you moving too fast to stop and remember what God has done?
3. How would your attitude change today if you took time to reflect on His grace?

## **Prayer:**

God, thank You for never forgetting me. Help me to stop and remember all the ways You've been good to me. Teach me to trust You, not just when things go well, but when I'm unsure of what's next. Your grace has brought me this far, and I believe it will carry me forward. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## **Wednesday: Fear or Faith?**

### **Scripture Reading:**

*“But they forgot the Lord their God. And He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the*

*hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them. And they cried out to the Lord and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve You.' And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety. And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the Lord your God was your king." – 1 Samuel 12:9–12 (ESV)*

## **Devotional:**

Samuel keeps going with the story of Israel's past. God had rescued them again and again. When they forgot Him and turned to idols, He let their enemies rise up. But when they cried out, He answered. He sent judges and leaders to bring them peace. Still, when Nahash came against them, they panicked. Instead of trusting God, they demanded a king they could see.

Fear pushed them to forget. Even after all God had done, they didn't believe He would help again. So they looked for a human solution. They didn't just want help. They wanted control. It wasn't a small decision. It was a rejection of God as their King.

We do the same. When fear rises, it's easy to reach for something we can manage. We want safety, certainty, a plan we can hold in our hands. But faith means remembering that God is better than any shortcut we could take. He has delivered us before. He will do it again.

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. What fears are you facing right now that make it hard to trust God?
2. Are you asking God for help, or just trying to fix things yourself?
3. How has fear led you to forget His past faithfulness?

## **Prayer:**

Lord, I don't want to let fear control my choices. Remind me of who You are and what You've done. Teach me to trust You more than I trust my own plans. You are still my King. Help me to live like that today. In Jesus' name, amen.

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# **Thursday: The Choice Ahead**

## **Scripture Reading:**

*“And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. If you will fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king.” – 1 Samuel 12:13–15 (ESV)*

## **Devotional:**

Samuel tells the people that their new king is in place. God has given them what they asked for. But now, something more important lies in front of them: the choice to obey. If they and their king fear the Lord, serve Him, and listen to His voice, things will go well. But if they turn away and rebel, they will face consequences. It’s simple and serious.

God is not against leadership. He is against hearts that refuse to follow Him. The real issue isn’t the crown. It’s the condition of the people’s hearts. The king can’t save them. Only God can. Their future depends on their willingness to listen and obey. That’s still true for us today.

Every day, we face this same choice. Will we follow God’s voice or our own? Will we honor Him or chase what we think we need? God’s blessings are tied to trust and obedience. It’s not about being perfect. It’s about being faithful. Obedience is not a rule to keep. It’s a relationship to walk in.

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. Are there any areas where you’re resisting God’s voice?
2. How do you respond when you feel pulled between obedience and comfort?
3. What would it look like to serve God with your whole heart today?

## **Prayer:**

God, help me to choose You today. I don’t want to just go through the motions. I want to follow Your voice and walk in Your ways. Teach me to obey You with love and trust. Lead me and guide me, even when it’s hard. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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# **Friday: A Storm That Speaks**

## **Scripture Reading:**

*“Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes. Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord, that He may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking for yourselves a king.” So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel. And all the people said to Samuel, ‘Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.’” – 1 Samuel 12:16–19 (ESV)*

## **Devotional:**

Samuel tells the people to stand still and watch. It’s the dry season, harvest time. No one expects rain. But Samuel says that God will send thunder and rain as a sign. This storm isn’t just about weather. It’s a message. God is showing the people that their sin (asking for a king to replace Him) is serious.

Then it happens. Thunder crashes, rain falls, and the people are shaken. They suddenly understand. This wasn’t a small mistake. They hadn’t just made a bad decision. They had pushed God aside. And now, the storm wakes them up. They’re afraid, not of the storm itself, but of what it means. They ask Samuel to pray for them, realizing their guilt.

Sometimes, we need storms too. Not because God wants to scare us, but because He wants to get our attention. He loves us enough to interrupt our comfort and call us back. Conviction isn’t cruelty. It’s a gift that can lead us back to grace.

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. Has God ever used a difficult situation to wake you up spiritually?
2. How do you respond when you feel convicted about your actions?
3. What is one area where you need to ask God for forgiveness today?

## **Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for speaking to me, even when it’s hard to hear. When I wander, wake me up. Let me see my sin clearly, and bring me back to You. Help me not to run from conviction, but to turn to You in repentance. Thank You for loving me enough to correct me. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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## **Saturday: Grace That Stays**

## Scripture Reading:

*And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for Himself. Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.” – 1 Samuel 12:20–25 (ESV)*

## Devotional:

Even after the storm and the fear, Samuel tells the people not to be afraid. Yes, they had sinned. But God was still calling them to come back to Him. This is what grace looks like. It does not ignore sin, but it does not push us away. God offers a way forward, not based on what they had done, but based on who He is.

Samuel tells them to stop chasing things that are empty. These things might look helpful, but they have no power to save or protect. They are distractions that lead us away from God. But God stays faithful. He does not leave His people. Not because they deserve it, but because He made a promise and He keeps His word.

Samuel ends with a strong reminder. He says he will keep praying for them and teaching them the right way to live. Then he gives them a clear command: fear the Lord, serve Him with all your heart, and remember everything He has done. This is how we respond to grace. Not with guilt or shame, but with faith and devotion.

## Reflection Questions:

1. What distractions or false promises are pulling your attention away from God?
2. How has God stayed faithful to you, even when you have fallen short?
3. What is one step you can take today to serve the Lord with your whole heart?

## Prayer:

God, thank You for staying with me even when I have made mistakes. I want to turn away from the things that cannot help me. Teach me to follow You with all of my heart. Help me to remember what You have done and live in a way that honors You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

