



THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF TRUST

I invite you to walk with me through the Old Testament and discover how God uses the stories of broken men—not perfect ones—to help us learn to trust Him. These lives aren't just ancient history; they are windows into our own struggles and hopes. Each story leads us closer to Jesus, the one in whom all trust finds its meaning. Along the way, your "trust muscle" will be stretched and strengthened as we explore what it means to truly follow the One who is trustworthy. Let's take the journey together.

SAUL – A TRAGEDY of MISPLACE TRUST!

Nothing in the world works without trust. Trust is established through relationship. Who do you trust? Who do you follow?

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

www.MensTable.com

July 26, 2025

Scripture: 1 Samuel 13:8-14; 1 Samuel 15:10-23; 1 Samuel 18:6-9

Music: Rush of Fools-Undo – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlVaTPdh_ig

Videos: Old Testament Summary - <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/old-testament-tanak/>

The Untold Story Of Black Hawk Down: Jeff Struecker – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgNOel0tvDs>

Gladiator - Commodus and Marcus Aurelius - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqulP0mDWLg>

Resources: Hitchhiking with Prophets – A Ride through the Salvation Story of the Old Testament by Chad Bird

Trust – Knowing When to Give It, When to Withhold It, How to Earn It, and How to Fix It When It Gets Broken in Life and Business by Dr. Henry Cloud

SAUL – The Tragedy!

1. _____ → **Saul Prioritized Performance Over Obedience.** When Saul offered the burnt offering instead of waiting for Samuel, he placed **outward action over inward obedience**. He feared the people's opinion more than God's command. I Samuel 13. Saul trusted **his own timing** more than God's word. **Life Application:** When we care more about appearances than obedience, we start building trust on sand. *"To obey is better than sacrifice..." – 1 Samuel 15:22*
2. _____ → **Saul Was Driven by Insecurity and Fear.** As David's popularity grew, Saul became obsessed with control and comparison. His fear turned to jealousy, and jealousy turned to rage. I Samuel 18:7-9. He couldn't trust God's sovereignty or celebrate others' success. **Life Application:** Insecurity erodes trust because it shifts our focus from God's calling to someone else's spotlight. *"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands..." – and Saul burned with envy.*
3. _____ → **Saul Refused to Take Responsibility.** After disobeying God by sparing King Agag and the best of the Amalekite plunder, Saul made excuses and blamed the people. I Samuel 15. Saul couldn't own his failure, which kept him from being restored. **Life Application:** Without honesty and humility, broken trust can't be repaired. Trust dies when responsibility is deflected. *"I have sinned," Saul finally says—but only after being cornered. Too little, too late*

The 5 Essentials of Trust

1. **Understanding**
You trust people who 'get you.' They listen, empathize, and validate your perspective without quick fixes.
2. **Motive**
Trust is built when the other person's heart is for you, not just for their own interests. You feel safe when someone genuinely wants your good.
3. **Ability**
Good intentions aren't enough. We trust people who are competent—who have the skills, wisdom, or experience to follow through.
4. **Character**
You trust those who do the right thing when it costs them. Integrity, humility, and consistency over time shape deep trust.
5. **Track Record**
Trust is strengthened when someone has shown up again and again—when they've proven themselves trustworthy through real-life situations.

BUILD YOUR TRUST MUSCLE

1. **Intentional Growth** → Trust Is Grown, Not Given. Trust develops over time through small, repeated experiences of vulnerability and repair. It's earned, not assumed. Quote: "We grow trust by taking intentional, small steps toward people who prove trustworthy."
2. **Relational Training** → Trust Strengthens in Community. Real relationships that involve both grace and truth become the training ground for learning how to trust. Quote: "Real relationships are the training ground for building your trust reflex."
3. **Restorative Repair** → Requires Rebuilding After Breaks. Broken trust is not the end. It becomes an opportunity for growth if both parties are willing to engage the repair process. Quote: "When trust breaks, those willing to work through it get stronger—not weaker."



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Take Action! Journal This!

1. Where in your life have you been tempted to perform for approval instead of obeying God?
2. How has insecurity or comparison affected your ability to trust?
3. Have you taken full responsibility for your failures, or are you still making excuses?

SCRIPTURE – The Message

1 Samuel 13:8-14 – 8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel. Samuel failed to show up at Gilgal, and the soldiers were slipping away, right and left. **9** So Saul took charge: "Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings!" He went ahead and sacrificed the burnt offering. **10** No sooner had he done it than Samuel showed up! Saul greeted him. **11** Samuel said, "What on earth are you doing?" **12** I said, 'The Philistines are about to come down on me in Gilgal, and I haven't yet come before God asking for his help.' So I took things into my own hands, and sacrificed the burnt offering." **13** "That was a fool thing to do," Samuel said to Saul. "If you had kept the appointment that your God commanded, by now God would have set a firm and lasting foundation under your kingly rule over Israel. **14** As it is, your kingly rule is already falling to pieces. God is out looking for your replacement right now. This time he'll do the choosing. When he finds him, he'll appoint him leader of his people. And all because you didn't keep your appointment with God!"

1 Samuel 15:10-23 – 10 Then God spoke to Samuel: **11** "I'm sorry I ever made Saul king. He's turned his back on me. He refuses to do what I tell him." **12** He got up early in the morning to confront Saul but was told, "Saul's gone. He went to Carmel to set up a victory monument in his own honor, and then was headed for Gilgal." By the time Samuel caught up with him, Saul had just finished an act of worship, having used Amalekite plunder for the burnt offerings sacrificed to God. **13** As Samuel came close, Saul called out, "God's blessings on you! I accomplished God's plan to the letter!" **14** Samuel said, "So what's this I'm hearing - this bleating of sheep, this mooing of cattle?" **15** "Only some Amalekite loot," said Saul. "The soldiers saved back a few of the choice cattle and sheep to offer up in sacrifice to God. But everything else we destroyed under the holy ban."

16 "Enough!" interrupted Samuel. "Let me tell you what God told me last night." Saul said, "Go ahead. Tell me." **17** And Samuel told him. "When you started out in this, you were nothing - and you knew it. Then God put you at the head of Israel - made you king over Israel. **18** Then God sent you off to do a job for him, ordering you, 'Go and put those sinners, the Amalekites, under a holy ban. Go to war against them until you have totally wiped them out.' **19** So why did you not obey God? Why did you grab all this loot? Why, with God's eyes on you all the time, did you brazenly carry out this evil?" **20** Saul defended himself. "What are you talking about? I did obey God. I did the job God set for me. I brought in King Agag and destroyed the Amalekites under the terms of the holy ban. **21** So the soldiers saved back a few choice sheep and cattle from the holy ban for sacrifice to God at Gilgal - what's wrong with that?" **22** Then Samuel said, Do you think all God wants are sacrifices - empty rituals just for show? He wants you to listen to him! Plain listening is the thing, not staging a lavish religious production. **23** Not doing what God tells you is far worse than fooling around in the occult. Getting self-important around God is far worse than making deals with your dead ancestors. Because you said No to God's command, he says No to your kingship.

1 Samuel 18:6-9 - 6 As they returned home, after David had killed the Philistine, the women poured out of all the villages of Israel singing and dancing, welcoming King Saul with tambourines, festive songs, and lutes. **7** In playful frolic the women sang, Saul kills by the thousand, David by the ten thousand! **8** This made Saul angry - very angry. He took it as a personal insult. He said, "They credit David with 'ten thousands' and me with only 'thousands.' Before you know it they'll be giving him the kingdom!" **9** From that moment on, Saul kept his eye on David.

"Undo" – by Rush of Fools

I've been here before
Now, here I am again
Standing at the door
Praying You'll let me back in
To label me
A prodigal would be
Only scratching the surface
Of who I've been known to be
Turn me around, pick me up
Undo what I've become
Bring me back to the place
Of forgiveness and grace
I need You, I need Your help
I can't do this myself
You're the only one

Who can undo what I've become
I focused on the score
But I could never win
Trying to ignore
A life of hiding my sin
To label me
A hypocrite would be
Only scratching the surface
Of who I've been known to be
Turn me around, pick me up
Undo what I've become
Bring me back to the place
Of forgiveness and grace
I need You, I need Your help
I can't do this myself

You're the only one
Who can undo what I've become
Make every step lead me back to
The sovereign way that You
Turn me around, pick me up
Undo what I've become
Bring me back to the place
Of forgiveness and grace
I need You, I need Your help
I can't do this myself
You're the only one who can undo
You are the only one who can undo
You're the only one who can undo
What I've become

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