

8. ASHEVILLE, 1980 THE CAUSES OF SPIRITUAL INEFFECTIVENESS: Studies in the Life of King Saul

An Introductory Note: I wish I had kept better records of the places. This talk is dated correctly and I am not sure of the location because I did not note the place. If anyone every corrects all of this material they can help me get it order in best form. But I was at the same place for two weeks and delivered two separate series and that is why they are divided in this case as opposed to the Zechariah talks. This short series was based on the life of Saul who seemed initially to offer so much but who actually produced more of a disappointment than anything else. I believe Stan Ford was the other speaker and I have some interesting remembrances of our times together which, unfortunately I do not have the time to discuss in detail just now! They were remarkable times, however, and I have often thanked the Lord for allowing me the pleasure of his company and companionship.

Some of these messages are opened more fully than others (obviously) but I will try to have the central points of emphasis clear enough that they can still be read and applied.

The Ministry: Causes of Spiritual Ineffectiveness: Studies in the Life of King Saul

- 1. His Person and the Insecurity in His Calling**
- 2. Impatience with the Ways of God**
- 3. Impulsive and Inconsistent Judgments**
- 4. Inattentiveness in Following the Word of God**
- 5. Infidelity in the Work of God**
- 6. Unwillingness to Truly Repent and Change**

The Idea:

Our purpose is not to "beat up" on Saul or take advantage of the life of another from ages past, but to see in a practical way what the habits or attitudes were that rendered him ineffective in a spiritual sense. In much of his reign he enjoyed success but when it came to matters of heart and soul he was not prospered. I will stress that most of these things were not forced upon him from external enemies, but grew out of his own personality and lack of humility before God. We are not going to accept some psychological alibi for his behavior (although there may well have been some important aspects to that) but note the parts of life in which he should have had some sense of control but did not seem to be able to manifest much if any. Well, I am always glad it was some other