

## **WORSHIP OF ONESELF**

You might think that the most unlikely person to worship himself would be Saul, or that such a person would most likely to worship himself and would be conceited and arrogant.

(1 Sam.15:17) “Samuel said, ‘Is it not true, **though you were little in your own eyes**, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the Lord anointed you king over Israel.”

This shows that people are not always as they appear. Sometimes they disguise their Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (flesh belief system) core. But it is difficult, if not impossible, to hide it in times of great subjective thinking. This is true with Saul in the Amalekite story.

On Saul’s return after great military victory over the Amalekites, Saul stopped at Carmel and set a monument up for himself (hero worship).

(1 Sam.15:12) “Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul; and it was told Samuel, saying, ‘Saul came to Carmel, and **behold, he set up a monument for himself**, then turned and proceeded on down to Gilgal.’” (1 Sam.18:7)

<p><b>This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of Saul’s worship of himself.</b></p>
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This shows Saul’s overwhelming need for the approval of others.

1. The setting up of this monument to himself reflects his insecurity and weakness of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) “worldly” thinking.

Saul had not spiritually grown to understand how to convert old man weaknesses into new man strengths.

Paul’s reflections on the issue:

(2 Cor.12:9) “My grace is sufficient for you, for **power is perfected in weakness**. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather **boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.**”

Saul is attempting to hide his weaknesses rather than boast of power of Christ over them.

Saul is living under the power of OMCD thinking.

(Matt.16:23) “Get behind me, satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are **NOT setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.**”

This Monument is a symbol of a spiritually troubled soul. Saul, like Cain, thought he could worship the Lord by establishing his own rules and conditions of worship (OMCD). We will learn that God considers this idolatry.

Notice that Saul became defensive with Samuel. This shows he has **built walls around his OMCD disillusions**. It is difficult to be honest with himself (1 Sam.15:19-21) [blaming others - a distraction].

2. **Saul was engaged in psychological worship based on Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) “worldly” thinking. One name assigned to it is hero worship (the monument).**

Believers worship all sorts of details of life.

(Rom.1:25) “For they **exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Saul like Cain thought he could worship the Lord by adding his own rules and conditions while ignoring to do the will of God (Gen.4).

(Matt.6:24) “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**”

Jesus made this doctrinal point to woman at the well (John 4:19-26).

(John 4:24) “You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.” 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16)

(John 4:24) “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

3. **The worst deception could be self-deception.**

In this story, Saul is a classic example of it. Saul convinced himself that he was doing the will of the Lord by substituting his will in it.

(1 Sam.15:13- 14) “Saul said to him (Samuel), ‘Blessed are you of the Lord! I have carried out the command of the Lord.’”

You can see Saul’s overwhelming need for approval of Samuel in this conversation. (1 Sam.15:13-35) The monument was tooting of his own horn based on self-deception of OMCD lies (John 8:44). It is based on 1 Sam.15:17 – “**Little in your own eyes.**”

Saul was disillusioned by OMCD thinking. He is engaged in false assumptions that lead to false interpretations that lead to false expectations that lead to false applications (1 Cor.8:1; 2 Tim.3:7; Prov.1:5).

If you are believer and overwhelmed with feelings of inadequacies, please read (2 Cor.12:5, 9-10).

4. **Obedying the details of the Directive Will of God is not complicated. It just requires doing the Will.**

(James 1:22-23) “But **prove yourselves doers of the word**, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer; he has like a man who looks at his **natural** (genesis) **face** in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.”

The details of the Directive Will of God were given to Saul in (1 Sam.15:1-3) (Ex.17:8-16).

But Saul disobeyed the details of directive by implementing his will into it, like Cain. God described it as Saul “turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands.” (1 Sam.15:11)

**God called it** “rebellion (sin of divination) and insubordination (iniquity and idolatry) because you have rejected the word of the Lord. He has rejected you from being king.” (1 Sam.15:23) [God is just]