

Self sufficiency or dependency on God

Faith or Presumption

It is easy to confuse self sufficiency with depending on God, just like faith and presumption if we do not know the difference between the two. We could do well to a certain extent by ourselves, and call it the will of God or take credit for it as we usually do. But if we are not depending on Him: seeking and waiting for His guidance to do everything, then we are relying on ourselves.

King Saul was told to wait in spite of his present circumstances to offer a sacrifice by Samuel, but he chose not to because of it. His first issue was like a slippery slope that led to his downfall. The Bible strictly warns us about presumptuous sins, which leads to the great transgression in **Psalm 19:13**.

"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."

The start of King Saul's downfall 1 Samuel 13:

Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,² Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.³ And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.⁴ And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.⁵ And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven.⁶ When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.⁷ And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

⁸ And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. ⁹ And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.¹⁰ And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.¹¹ And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;¹² Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.¹⁴ But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.

15 And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people that were present with him, about six hundred men. 16 And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that were present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.17 And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned unto the way that leadeth to Ophrah, unto the land of Shual:18 And another company turned the way to Bethhoron: and another company turned to the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.19 Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears:20 But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.21 Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.22 So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

Question: What is presumptuous sins?

It would have to be the complete opposite of faith; and therefore by knowing what it is we can be able to see the distinction between the two. The Biblical definition of Faith. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." **Hebrews 11:1**

Question: What does this exactly mean?

First, in order to establish a premise (foundation), we will need to build it according to some examples of the word. And also the Bible says, "But if he will not hear *thee*, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

"Matthew 18:20

1. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." **Hebrews 11:3**
2. "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." **Hebrews 11:8**
3. "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." **Hebrews 11:17-19**

- By faith we can understand the created things that we can see was created by that which is unseen.
- By faith Abraham obeyed God's voice. Leaving his home to receive an inheritance, not knowing where he was going.
- By faith Abraham had complete confidence in God, trusting in Him as he offered Isaac. Due to the fact, that he knew Isaac was the one who God Himself had promised to continue the patriarch.

Faith is then, the substance of things hoped for as though it were literally touchable substance, the evidence of things that are not seen as though it were seen. According to God's promises relative to His word. Without faith it is impossible to please Him. Therefore, whatever is without faith is a sin. **Hebrews 11:6 and Romans 3:23.**

There is no physical evidence, It is not so easily tangible. We can not touch, feel, hear or see it, to determine if it is true. It does not bear the Rationalist concept nor interpretation. This excludes not only presumption, but the presumption by impulses.

Faith is often accompanied with a divine assurance of God's guidance, where the individual absolutely knows beyond reasonable doubt of what to do. Presumptuous sin is to know God's will, and not wait for His guidance or to impose their own will on Him, calling it His will. So presumptuous sin could be an excessive forwardness without God's divine assurance, where there is no guidance or to impose our will on Him, calling it His will, when it is impulse driven.

Faith may require some patience, and with some patience suffering. Enduring suffering, while you wait on God to fulfill His promises on His own timing.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him. For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." **Hebrews 11:6**

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Scripture references:

- Psalm 19:13
- 1Samuel 13
- Hebrews 11:1
- Matthew 18:20
- Hebrews 11:3
- Hebrews 11:8
- Hebrews 11:17-19
- Hebrews 11:6
- Romans 3:23