



PAS HOPFAN

Pray-Act-Serve

House Of Prayer For All Nations

A Christian, non-profit Non Governmental Organization in the service of GOD and Mankind

www.pas-hopfan.org | info@pas-hopfan.org | Headquarters • Bangui, Central African Republic • Tel. +236 75 50 23 23 |
Contact in New York, USA • Tel. +1 240 755 4467

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GOD's Choice



“The Lord looks on the heart...”

info@pas-hopfan.org

GOD'S CHOICE

(Transcript of a preaching by Pastor Léonard Gonitoua, Bangui, 2012.)



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Brothers and sisters, in the first book of Samuel 16:1-13, GOD is talking about several **critical** points. Let us read before going further deeper:

“The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.’

But Samuel said, ‘How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me.’ The Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.’

Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, ‘Do you come in peace?’ Samuel replied, ‘Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.’ Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.’

But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’

Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, ‘The Lord has not chosen this one either.’ Jesse then made Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, ‘Nor has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ So he asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’

‘There is still the youngest,’ Jesse answered, ‘but he is tending the sheep.’ Samuel said, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.’ So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; he is the one.’

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.”



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GOD answers our prayers

The Lord, after having listened to Samuel praying day and night in favor of Saul, told him: “Samuel, how long are you going to cry out for Saul? Who is this Saul? Is he the king of Israel?”

In the past, GOD used to declare good things over Saul’s life, until the latter turned away from Him et began to walk disorderly. “I have rejected him”, said the Lord in response to Samuel’s prayers in favor of Saul.

Interceding in silence

Matthew 6:6

Jesus said that when we pray, we have to do so in Spirit and make sure that nobody is watching us. Thus, when Samuel was praying for Saul in the secret, day and night, Saul did not know anything about it. The Lord was looking after Saul, giving him strength, declaring good things over his life, delivering him from danger, and giving him understanding to guide those who were next to him. When Saul began to walk disorderly and to forget about GOD, Samuel did not let go. He continued to pray.

Today, many people do not want to hear about GOD. And yet, every day, the people of GOD, alike Jesus, behave like Samuel. They intercede in your favour so that you do not die, or nothing bad happens to you; or so that you, **who could for instance be in the military**, do not fall in Satan’s hands. However, since people pray in Spirit, you do not see anything and you say: “Leave me alone with your stories about GOD! Leave me alone with your prayer stuff!” Some of you even become **the “enemies” of your wives/ husbands, children or neighbours, simply because of their prayers and prayer lives. It is also rather common to see GOD’s people, in particular intercessors, considered “foolish” or “lazy”.** But, **as we can see in the above illustration**, Samuel never stopped praying for Saul who was the king.

Persevering in prayer

Acts 1:14

If the Lord agreed to position you, a child of GOD, people of God, in this country, it is

because He wanted you to **seek Him through prayer**. We can see that Samuel did not consider Saul's bad behavior! Should he had done so, he wouldn't had continued to pray and wouldn't had fulfilled GOD's work. Today, we pray for others just for a few moments. But Samuel prayed for Saul until he had tears. On the contrary, **many who** have to pray for a brother or a sister, **their** country or any other subject, **often give up after a short while**. Some of you even say: "I will never pray for that person anymore!" Others say: "I am done with her/him!" Some others: "I will never look at that person anymore!" But this man of GOD remained in prayer until the Lord came to him and **instructed** him **to stop**. You and I **often** pray for others because we want to receive a reward from them. We want these people to do something for us. But Samuel persevered in prayers until GOD told him to stop praying.

Prayer alone is not enough

In addition to prayers, GOD wants to see our good attitudes, good behaviors. GOD wanted to see in Saul's heart the fear of His Name, but He did not see that. Samuel continued to pray and to cry, whereas GOD had already rejected Saul because of his unpleasant behavior.

Grace belongs to GOD, not to witchcraft

Exodus 33:19; Psalm 84:11



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Today, many people want others to pray for them. However, their lives do not please GOD. They continue to live a disorderly life. They go after women or men. They use **witchcraft** or magic. Some women even ask their children to place fetish in the house of their "rivals". More, **some** people use **witchcraft** to contribute to the failure of

their co-workers so that they can succeed in their place. But you forget that GOD is The One who grants elevation, promotion to ones or the others. Grace belongs to GOD.

GOD saw David and only spoke highly about him. He chose David while the latter was in the bush, to make him king over His people. My brother, my sister, are you negotiating today to get a position? Are you negotiating with someone to get a promotion or **financial** resources? Would you do anything to get the good things that you want? Now that you have a good job with **subsequent income**. What would you say on the Last Judgement Day?

Do you acknowledge GOD's Hand in your life?

Job 12:9-10

Many don't know GOD yet. My brother, my sister, you who are reading this message from GOD, be aware that very often we do not acknowledge GOD's Hand in our life. You believe that GOD is not The One who gave you these items that you are selling today, neither this office where you are now working in, nor **your** husband, wife, or children.



Today, for instance, all those who are promoted or are appointed to **positions** of responsibility or **influence** often forget that GOD is the One who has blessed them. If you do not acknowledge that GOD has given these things to you, He will take them away from you one day. And when this day comes, nobody would be able to get these things back for **you**. If one day GOD takes back your husbands/wives, your children, all those things you are boasting about, nobody would be there to give them back to you. Even if you believe that you are protected by **witchcraft**, voodoo or magic, you are wrong. For GOD works in secret.

GOD is the One who chooses those He wants to promote

Psalm 75:4-7; Matthew 23:12

The day when GOD told Samuel to stop praying for Saul, He also told him that He had looked for and found someone else to replace Saul. Again today, many want the others to acknowledge **them**; when these people go to work, they want the others to talk about them; in the neighborhoods, they have to be seen. **We sometimes pose acts to attract others' attention and acknowledgment.** But GOD said that He looked for in all Israel and only found David.

My brother, my sister, who can stand in your way today if GOD has decided to promote you? Today, people sometimes accuse others by saying for instance: "My **supervisor** does not want to present my file to those who can take action **for a promotion**; that person has done everything he/she could to prevent me from succeeding; I failed in my life because of **my parents...**"

My brother, my sister, promotion does not come from men or women, but from GOD. Nobody was there to declare good things about David to Samuel! David was in the

bush. And GOD was there. **The Lord sees all the good deeds that you are doing in the Spirit, and He will reward you back.**

Alone before men/women, but with GOD

Psalm 9:10; Psalm 37:25; Psalm 37:28

David was the last-born in his family. His brothers were in town, next to their father, and were taking care of their father's business. But David was alone, taking care of **his father's sheep in the bush**. He had no help, no assistance. **If a lion had killed him, or even a criminal**, who would have been there to talk about him?

Nobody was next to David to help him. Today, many brothers and sisters are complaining because nobody cares about them. You are doing good deeds, but nobody acknowledges it. My brother, my sister, even if no-one acknowledges these actions, the Eyes of the Lord, Who is in Heaven, **see** them. The Lord knows you. Unfortunately, a lot of people cry about their own fate, are sad, because they want the others to acknowledge their good **deeds**. But David was **not like that**. He was in the bush. However, GOD had not abandoned him.

Never be discouraged



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Today, many people's hearts are grieving because they have to cover all expenses in their families. These people talk about it everywhere. **Others are heavy-hearted because they carry the bulk of the work in their office, and yet it is their colleagues who take advantage of the situation and benefit from it by receiving the money that they should have received as a result of their work.**

But David was in the bush **alone** and **could not rejoice** due to the fact that he was taking care of **his**

father's sheep. David's brothers, who were staying in town next to their father, were preferred to him. They were the ones people loved. Eliab, who was the eldest son, could have told David: "My young brother, let me do this work for you are too young." No. No-one made this proposal to David!

In Matthew 6:1, Jesus said that when you give something to someone, do not blow the trumpet; your GOD, who is in Heaven, will see it; your right hand should not see what your left hand is giving; but GOD, who sees everything in secret, will give you back. That is why GOD told Samuel: "Go to Jesse's house. There, I will choose someone for my Name."

GOD looks at the heart

1 Samuel 16:7

GOD told Samuel: “Yes, men and women look at what hits their eyes, but I look at people’s hearts.” Today again, people want to look **attractive** to the others, for example through their beautiful words, their beautiful clothes, their nice characters/temper, their **degrees**, their **mastery of** French or English. But in reality, GOD watches people’s hearts. He doesn’t look at your **degrees**, nor your beauty, or your **smart** words to make a decision, but your heart. There are people with great **degrees**, but who are very bad in GOD’s eyes. What these people are doing to their brothers and sisters, or to their spouses, is bad. In **every country**, we can find beautiful women **and handsome men**, but whose hearts are bad before GOD. We have many beautiful children in these countries, but their hearts are bad before GOD. We have beautiful churches, **smart** Pastors, but whose hearts are not necessarily good. GOD is looking for what is good in people’s hearts. GOD saw David’s deep heart, and He chose him.

On the contrary, you want people to know you, to know who you are. When you go to church, you wait until everybody has given his/her offerings and then you are the last person to stand up to bring yours, walking with pride so that people can see that you are **a smart** dresser. When you also go to work, you walk with pride to show off your beauty and your intelligence. My brother, my sister, GOD looks on what is in our hearts. GOD will act for you if your heart is good before His eyes. However great is the perfume that you put behind your heart, GOD looks on within your heart and can see that there is much dirtiness inside, such as rejection of others and bad thoughts. How many women are trying to take to court their husbands? How many are those who desire to abandon their children? How many women also are planning to kill the babies whom they **carried** in pain **while** they were pregnant? Or those women who are thinking of doing evil to others? But when you walk in the street, people look at you **and say**, “**What a good woman!**” or “**What a good man!**” But everything that you are meditating on **in the secret of** your hearts is not **pleasing** GOD.

Many are looking for **jobs**, but GOD is looking for those who have a pure heart to **answer their prayer for such a job**. Many women are looking **to get married**, but GOD is looking for those with a pure heart to give them a husband. The same for men; GOD is looking for men with a pure heart to give them a wife. Many are trying to travel abroad, but GOD is looking for those with a pure heart to grant them **their desire**. Today, it is the condition of our heart that separates us from GOD. Because of our evil hearts, our anger, our desire to kill, to reject others, **to seek revenge**, and any other evil things, the Lord GOD Almighty does not take pleasure in watching us, for He **sees** the conditions of



our hearts. Even if people love us, praise us because we are generous, what GOD is looking for is not really our generosity but rather **whether** our hearts are good in His Eyes.

Let GOD guide you

Genesis 24:1-27



A number of people do not want to see their family members coming to GOD. But you can see that when the time comes to choose someone for GOD's work, GOD Himself makes the choice. We have a good example with Abraham in Genesis 24:1-27. The day when Abraham sent his servant to look for a wife for his son Isaac, that servant made a promise in His prayer to GOD. He asked GOD to choose for him the wife he should bring to Isaac. And we can see that

Isaac and Rebecca never ceased to love one another. Only death separated them because GOD was the One who had united them. However, today, we do not want to come to GOD and let Him guide us in various aspects of, and important decisions pertaining to our lives. On the contrary, we do not consult Him or involve Him in our choices... in fact, we often keep Him as far away as possible. But you can see that GOD chose David, the least of all, the one people had forgotten about. GOD had not forgotten David and opened doors for His servant Samuel to go and see David.

Sometimes rejected without knowing it...

When Samuel was shown Eliab, David's brother, Samuel saw that he was a hefty, tall man. Samuel said: "It's him"; but GOD said: "No, do not look on his size, because I, GOD, have already rejected him." "Already rejected" entails that in the beginning, GOD used to love and to be with Eliab. But then Eliab turned away from GOD, who gave him the time to repent. In vain. Eventually, GOD rejected him. Today, there are people whom GOD loves, of course, but whose sins do not please GOD. The Lord gives you time and you go too far. If you do not repent, GOD will take back what He has placed in your hands. He would do that, the same way he did it with Saul and with David's brothers. Out of the seven, GOD chose none of them.

Why did GOD reject Saul? Because Saul had forgotten Him. You do not want to acknowledge GOD's presence and mighty work in your life. You think that you are

successful as a result of witchcraft, your talisman, your own strength, your intelligence, your wisdom. One day, GOD will end-up taking back what He has placed in your hands, and you will have no rest; you will not be able to rejoice anymore. GOD wants to be honored in your life and through it.



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This is why GOD said: "I have already rejected that one." Once upon a time, GOD was doing many things for you, but today GOD's blessings in your life are gone. Why? Simply because GOD had given you time to repent and return to Him, but you did not do the right thing during that time. You went on your ways, you sinned, you persisted in your mistakes. You told yourself: "GOD loves me very much" and you lived the life of a thief. GOD loved Saul, but then He told Samuel: "I have rejected him." When the Lord waits for you in vain and you decide to persist in your sinful ways, you end-up experiencing tragedy. Today, many people rely on GOD's unconditional love as a pretext not to change.

When GOD rejected Saul, the latter did not know it. Again today, GOD has left many of us, GOD is saddened by many, but nobody knows it. Those people continue to boast and to dance, while the Spirit of GOD has already left them. They continue to be proud, whereas the Holy Spirit of GOD has moved away from them. They continue to admire their beauty, to count on their own intelligence and wisdom, while GOD has already moved away from them.

GOD is not interested in the outward appearance

GOD told Samuel: "I haven't chosen any of them." Yet, there are people who appear good; you and I, we are fluent in French and/or in English, we possess big houses, we wear nice clothing, but GOD has not chosen us. My brother, my sister, GOD does not make His choice like that. People use lies, the names of others, or rumors to get a promotion. Few are those who, to get a husband or a job, turn to GOD.

On the contrary, they go for instance to see a witchdoctor. No, GOD loves it when we let Him choose whomever He wants. GOD will give to the person He has chosen the strength he/she needs to accomplish his/her tasks.

Do not look for the gratitude of men/women but of GOD

When GOD chose David, the latter went through difficult situations. But not a single hair of David fell from his head because GOD was the One who had chosen him. My brother, my sister, you are serving GOD today in your church. Even if people do not know you, do not recognize your value, do not know the efforts you are making or do not know that you are living in sanctification, what you need to look for is not their gratitude but to keep your heart pure so that the Lord can act in your favor, look for you and call you.

Do you have a spirit of care or of destruction?

John 10:10



GOD anointed David, who was sent for in the bush. David had in him a spirit of care for his sheep. However, a number of people prefer to get positions of leadership. They do not have a spirit of care, but rather a spirit of destruction. The day some of them quit their important positions, it is as though fire had entered the office. The office equipment has been embezzled, and other types of equipment

are no longer in working conditions.

Many want to be Pastors simply because they are looking for money, specific things; but they are not looking for GOD. Others want to be departmental heads, not because they want the work to further the company's interests but rather because they see the travels and benefits they can get from such jobs, such as the company's cars and salaries. They are not trying to build anything.

Today, several do not take care of their children, often spending the night outside of their homes and engaging in drinking or extra-marital relationships. They argue or fight with their spouses in front of their children. By doing so, they are destroying their homes and the future of their children in particular.

David took care of the sheep and exposed his life to danger. But generally speaking, you and I do not act this way. We, above all, are looking for benefits. If tomorrow something serious happens to your wife and that she can no longer bear you children, you get rid of her. Or if your husband gets sick or loses his job, you leave him.

But David desired to keep and protect the sheep. Do you have a spirit of preservation, of care for what GOD has given you? Some servants of GOD who have been placed as heads of their church bankrupts it two months later. Why? Because they do not protect but destroy and cut their neighbor's throat. Others, when they bring home someone else's child to take care of him/her, after a while, you can see the veins of the child's neck whereas in the beginning the same child was in good health.



Set oneself aside when one serves GOD

1 Chronicles 23:13; Acts 13:2

My brother, my sister, GOD has chosen you. Before accepting a sacrifice, GOD used to tell Samuel to consecrate the people He had chosen. If you and I want to follow GOD, we must set ourselves aside. But you continue to live with your beer, your drug, your jealousy or pride. You refuse to consecrate yourself to GOD. And you dare say that you are a servant of GOD who works for the Lord?! And you are praying? You are worshiping Satan without even knowing it.

Change your behaviors while you still have time

Ezekiel 18:21-23; 1 Peter 2:12

People of GOD, the Lord wants you to change your behavior. For instance, if you are a servant of GOD, you should pray for the others until GOD asks you to stop. Some tell their husbands: "I have prayed for you but I did not see anything. I am done with prayers." **There are Pastors who condition their prayers for others by payments.** Samuel prayed and cried because of Saul, and GOD asked him to stop praying. GOD comforted him and gave him a solution. **Maybe you too, my brother, my sister, you have been praying for a while and your heart is aching. Do not give up.** Keep praying and the GOD of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will wipe your tears away and **will tell you when to stop.** Do



not decide to stop on your own by thinking that you have prayed for so long in vain, without change. No, remain in prayers for Samuel prayed all night and GOD was the One who stopped him.

David became king under Samuel, a servant of the Lord who was a role model. But today, we have servants of GOD who are dishonest. They are known for their lies, quarrels, adultery and debauchery. GOD is looking for those who are exemplary so that He can speak to them. Samuel did what GOD told him to do. GOD told Samuel “Go” and Samuel went. And GOD

told him “I am going to show you

the one you have to choose.” Do you choose today what GOD has chosen for you, or do you only make choices on your own?

Think about it...

Be blessed in Christ! ●

(Transcript of a preaching by Léonard Gonitoua, Bangui, 2012.)



THE DAILY BREAD is a publication of **“Pray-Act-Serve, House Of Prayer For All Nations” (P.A.S. HOPFAN)**, which is a Christian, non-profit Non Governmental Organization based in Bangui, Central African Republic. This Christian apolitical organization has three main objectives: To **Pray**, so that GOD’s will for every human being be done; To **Act**, as GOD’s tool to advance His work, including for mankind’s salvation and success on earth; To **Serve** GOD and mankind based on the example of our role model, Jesus Christ.

THE DAILY BREAD

is issued once every three months with a view to sharing with its readers the many and diverse messages that we can find in the Bible, the Word of GOD.



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In the meantime, remain in GOD’s Word, the daily Bread that we all need to live a life in abundance, as planned by GOD, and to go through the trials and obstacles that we face at the same time as we move forward.

In the Bible (the New International Version), GOD tells us the following about His Word, among others:

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“The Word became flesh.” (John 1:14)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:16)

“How sweet are your words to my taste.” (Psalm 119:103)

“The word of our God stands for ever.” (Isaiah 40:8)

“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

“The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

“The word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

“The word of God lives in you.” (1 John 2:14)

“He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.” (Revelation 19:13)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105)



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