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Daily Devotional, Monday, January 22, 2018 - Responding to Closed Doors

JANUARY 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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1 Samuel 13:1-14

As believers, we want to follow God's will for our life, but sometimes we don't know which way to go. Perhaps we're standing at a crossroads, wondering which pathway is the Lord's. Or maybe after making good progress, we suddenly encounter a closed door. What are we to do when the path we want to travel is blocked?

Imagine yourself standing at one of these doors. First, you try the knob, but it won't budge. So you pull out your keys and look for one that fits. When that fails, you call your friends to ask if they know how to open it. Finally, in frustration, you grab a crowbar and pry the door open. The problem with all these methods is that they won't get you where the heavenly Father wants you to go.

King Saul found this out when he pried open a door the Lord had closed. He should have waited for Samuel, as only the priests were allowed to offer sacrifices. But Saul looked around at the circumstances, became frightened, and took matters into his own hands. Instead of standing at the door, trusting in the Lord, and waiting for Him to open it at the right time, Saul forced his way in, and as a result, lost his kingdom.

The costs of disobedience are always higher than the benefits of pushing through a closed door. If the Lord has sealed off an entry, it's for your protection. The right response is to wait patiently and be faithful in your present situation. In time, He'll either open the door or redirect you to the path that leads to His will.

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