

April 19 Answers

- 1) David and Saul both faced a deadly crisis in their lives. Their reactions were completely different: David “strengthened himself in the **LORD** his God,” while Saul turned to a **medium**, and finally to **himself**. The contrast between David and Saul teaches us that when we’re overwhelmed by the challenges and difficulties of life, we should turn to God for help in time of need. No matter how hopeless the future may seem, the answer is to **trust** God and **rest** in His loving arms. Saul’s suicide was a tragic end to a man of great potential. He had all the qualities that people look for in a leader, and God personally established his kingship with a mighty victory (cf. 1 Sam 11). Yet Saul had a fatal flaw. He was **insecure** and sensitive about his **image**, and his insecurity caused him to be more concerned about himself than about following and obeying God’s will. As long as circumstances were favorable, Saul stood strong, but when **pressure** came, he gave in to temptation instead of trusting God. Then, in place of true **repentance**, Saul tried to please God with displays of **piety** and **zeal**, never understanding that true spirituality is the result of a **lifetime** of consistent obedience. Christian character is built one **decision** at a time. Like a brick, each act of obedience is small in itself, but over time those decisions pile up to form a **fortress** of courage and integrity that can withstand the attacks of the enemy.