Belief without Repentance

Saul’s last night alive was filled with contradictions that vividly illustrate the danger of belief without repentance. How can we avoid this danger?

**1. Saul *cast out* mediums and**

***consulted* a medium** (3-8)

**So:** Listen only to *Scripture*

 Isaiah 8:19-20

**2. Saul *swore an oath* in the Lord’s name**

**to *disobey* the Lord**  (9-12)

**So:** Keep your heart *soft*

 Psalm 95:8

**3. Saul tried to use the Lord’s *prophet***

**against the Lord’s *word*** (13-19)

**So:** Don’t search for *wiggle room*

 2 Peter 3:14-16

**4. Saul was *terrified* of the Lord’s judgment**

**without *trusting* in His mercy** (5, 20-22)

**So:** Fear God with *love*

 Deuteronomy 10:12

**Conclusion** (2 Corinthians 7:10)

Saul illustrates the difference between *godly* sorrow and *worldly* sorrow.

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. A medium is someone who claims to be able to communicate with the souls of the dead. What was the penalty for such people in the Old Testament (Leviticus 20:27)?

3. What kind of heart did King Josiah have when he heard God’s threat of judgment on his nation (2 Kings 22:18-20)? How did Josiah’s response to a threat differ from Saul’s response?

4. What was the serpent trying to accomplish when he asked Eve, “Indeed, has God said...”? What causes people to question God’s word? Why did Saul try to get a different word from the Lord than what Samuel had already given him while he lived?

5. Why was Saul’s fear reasonable considering his situation? What kind of fear should saved people not have? What kind of fear should saved people have (Matthew 10:28-31; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 4:17-18)?

6. Some other examples of people who believed but did not repent (as far as we know)—

Simon the magician (Acts 8:4-24)

King Agrippa (Acts 26:24-32)

7. Repentance is a daily duty for the believer. How can you be more sensitive toward this duty? How does genuine repentance help you avoid being overwhelmed and paralyzed by your guilt? How does repentance help you walk happily in God’s grace?