

# ***How God Builds People into Spiritual Influencers***

*1 Samuel 3:1-21*

**Introduction:** As 1 Samuel chapter three opens, young Samuel is still living and working in the tabernacle. He's older now, at least twelve, but God is about to do a work in his life that will transform him into a spiritual influencer. Hear learns to hear God's voice.

## **1. *SAMUEL'S GROWING INFLUENCE – Samuel's influence grows as he learns to hear God's word and live by it. 1 Samuel 3:1-21***

- A. *Samuel's personal situation* – Samuel is now a young teenager living in the tabernacle. 3:1-3
  - 1. He's still ministering to the Lord.
  - 2. He's still in subjection to Eli.
  - 3. He is living a very simple life.
- B. *Israel's political situation* – Samuel is living during a spiritually dark time.
  - 1. It is a time of violence and brutality. Judges 21:25
  - 2. It is a time of religious corruption. 1 Samuel 2:22
  - 3. It was a time of compromise. Note the dim eyes and the dim lamp. 3:2-3
  - 4. This is a time when God's communication with his people was very rare. 3:1
- C. *God intervenes* – He teaches Samuel how to listen to his word. 3:4-7
  - 1. God calls Samuel in an audible way, and Samuel runs to Eli. 3:4-5
  - 2. God calls Samuel two more times, and again, he runs to Eli. 3:6-8
  - 3. Eli teaches Samuel how to listen to God's word.
- D. *God speaks* – God gives Samuel a very hard message. 3:10-14
  - 1. Samuel invites God to speak. 3:10
  - 2. Samuel hears a message about judgment against Eli's house. 3:11-14
  - 3. Samuel rests until morning. What's he thinking during this time? 3:15a
- E. *God uses Samuel* – Samuel recounts God's word to Eli. 3:15
  - 1. Notice his natural humility: He goes about his duties as before. 3:15b
  - 2. Notice his natural fear: This message could invite persecution. 3:15c-17
  - 3. Notice his clear explanation: He tells the message without covering anything. 3:18
- F. *God grows Samuel* – In the years that follow, God establishes Samuel as a prophet. 3:19—4:1a
  - 1. He has consistent influence. 3:19
  - 2. His influence grows. 3:20
  - 3. God is with him. 3:21-4:1a
- G. *Key Idea* – God expands our spiritual influence as we learn to hear his word in humility and fearlessly share it.

## **2. *YOUR GROWING INFLUENCE – To become a spiritual influencer, you need to hear God's word with intent to do it.***

- A. *Historical situation* – We live in the same challenging time that Samuel lived in.
  - 1. Pop Culture – Like Samuel's era, sex and violence dominate entertainment.
  - 2. Religious Culture – Like Samuel's era, people are politicizing the truth.
  - 3. World Culture – Like Samuel's era, there is international instability.
- B. *Level one application: Discipleship* – We must hear God's word, and do it. Matt. 28:18-20
  - 1. Discipleship is rooted in Jesus: He has universal authority.
  - 2. Discipleship is simple: it's learning from Jesus every day with intent to obey.
  - 3. Discipleship is missional: it's what Jesus is accomplishing in the world.
- C. *Level two application: Community* – We need to hear and obey in relationships.
  - 1. Introducing Spiritual Formation Groups.
  - 2. Growing Spiritual Formation Groups.