

Against All Odds: How God's Kingdom Triumphs through Humble Heroes – Week 8
Appreciating the Amazing Providences of God
1 Samuel 9:1–10:16

Main Idea: The story of King Saul is a tragic story of a man who began well but didn't finish well. In 1 Samuel 9-10, the author writes to show how people can start strong in their relationship with God. The key for Saul was simple faith and cooperation with the quiet providences of God. The theological term "providence" refers to God's work behind the scenes to care for and guide His people so that His mission is fulfilled.

1. SAUL'S STORY – In the opening account of Saul's life we see five examples of the quiet providences of God. 1 Samuel 9:1–10:16

- A. God works through our family background. 9:1
- B. God works through our natural gifts. 9:2
- C. God works through seemingly random circumstances. 9:3-14
- D. God works through his word, as we progressively come to understand it. 9:15-27
- E. God works through his Holy Spirit. 10:1-13
- F. The Caution: Be careful how and to whom you communicate God's providences. 10:14-16

2. THE WORSHIP RESPONSE – As you see God's providence cultivate an attitude of gratitude.

- A. Responding to God's providence – some dos and don'ts.
- B. Responding to God's providence – See God in the little things and give thanks.

3. THE SERVICE RESPONSE – As you enjoy the benefits of God's providence remember that you are also a conduit of providence.

- A. Remember the purpose of providence: God cares for you so that his mission is fulfilled.
- B. At home – God designed you to be a conduit of providence within your family.
- C. In the world – God designed you to be a conduit of providence in your community. James 1:27
- D. Question – How are you thinking about God's providences today?