

# 1 Samuel 10:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

## Analysis

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**And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.**

Saul returns to Gibeah, his hometown and future capital, accompanied by divinely motivated supporters. The phrase 'whose hearts God had touched' (nega elohim belibam) indicates supernatural influence producing loyalty. The verb 'touched' (nega) implies a gentle contact - God did not compel but inclined these hearts toward Saul. This 'band of men' (chayil, also meaning army or force) formed the nucleus of Saul's administration. God's provision of loyal supporters demonstrates His genuine investment in Saul's success; the king was not set up for failure but supplied with every resource for faithful rule. The reference to 'hearts' creates thematic resonance with verse 9 (Saul's changed heart) and the later contrast with David, a man after God's own heart. Hearts feature prominently in Saul's narrative, tracking the inner dimension of his tragic decline.

## Historical Context

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Gibeah (Tell el-Ful), about three miles north of Jerusalem, served as Saul's capital throughout his reign. Archaeological excavations revealed a fortress-like structure from this period. The town's association with the horrific crime of Judges 19-21 gives it a troubled history that Saul's kingship attempted to redeem.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How has God provided loyal supporters to help you fulfill your calling?
2. What does God 'touching hearts' teach about the balance between divine sovereignty and human choice?

## Interlinear Text

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עַמּוֹ	וְ	לֹכְו	וְ	גִבְעָתָהּ	לְבֵיתוֹ	וְ	לֹכְו	וְ	שָׂא	וְ	גַּם
H5973		H1980		H1390	H1004		H1980		H7586		H1571
		also went		to Gibeah	home		also went		And Saul		
בְּלִבָּם:	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	נָגַע	אֲשֶׁר	הֵם!							
H3820	H430	H5060	H834	H2428							
whose hearts	God	had touched		with him a band of men							

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 11:4** (Parallel theme): Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

**Joshua 18:28** (Parallel theme): And Zelah, Eleph, and Jebusi, which is Jerusalem, Gibeath, and Kirjath; fourteen cities with their villages. This is the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

**1 Samuel 15:34** (Parallel theme): Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.