

# 1 Samuel 11:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

## Analysis

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**And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.**

The Spirit of God (ruach Elohim) coming upon Saul echoes the empowerment of the judges (Judges 3:10; 6:34; 11:29). The phrase 'came upon' (tsalach) implies rushing or falling upon with overwhelming force. Notably, his anger 'was kindled greatly' - righteous indignation that mirrors God's own jealousy for His people's honor. This Spirit-empowered anger transforms the hesitant Saul of chapter 10 into a decisive military leader. The conjunction of divine Spirit and holy anger demonstrates that godly leadership requires both supernatural enablement and passionate commitment to justice.

## Historical Context

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The charismatic empowerment of leaders by God's Spirit was the primary form of divine guidance during the judges period. This 'rushing' of the Spirit provided temporary enablement for specific tasks, distinct from the permanent indwelling that New Testament believers experience.

## Related Passages

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

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do we distinguish between sinful anger and Spirit-empowered righteous indignation?
2. What injustices should provoke holy anger in believers today?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתָּצֵל ח	רוּחַ	אֱלֹהִים	עַל	שָׁא וּל	בְּשָׁמְעוֹ	אֵת
came	And the Spirit	of God	H5921	upon Saul	when he heard	H853
H6743	H7307	H430		H7586	H8085	
הַדְּבָר יִם	הָא לָהּ	וַיִּחַר	אֵפּוֹ	מְאֹד:		
those tidings	H428	was kindled	and his anger	greatly		
H1697		H2734	H639	H3966		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 16:13** (Spirit): Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

**1 Samuel 10:10** (Spirit): And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

**Judges 6:34** (Spirit): But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

**Judges 14:6** (Spirit): And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

**Judges 3:10** (Spirit): And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

**Judges 13:25** (Spirit): And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

**Judges 11:29** (Spirit): Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.