

# 1 Samuel 15:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

## Analysis

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**And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.**

Saul's confession - 'I have sinned' - finally acknowledges failure, yet his explanation undermines it: 'because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.' He admits sin while blaming the people's influence. The Hebrew *yare* ('feared') and *shama* ('obeyed') ironically reverse proper priorities: Saul should have feared God and obeyed His voice, but instead feared and obeyed the people. His confession acknowledges the wrong action without accepting full responsibility. Partial confession, like partial obedience, falls short.

## Historical Context

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Fear of the people was a leadership failure throughout Israel's history. Aaron made the golden calf because he feared the people (Exodus 32:22-24). Leaders who fear followers more than God inevitably compromise divine commands for human approval.

## Related Passages

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Does your confession of sin include taking responsibility or deflecting blame?
2. How does fear of people lead to disobedience toward God?

## Interlinear Text

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אָמַר	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵל	שָׁא וּל	אֶל	שְׁמוּאֵל	חָטָא אֶתִי	כִּי	עָבַר רְתִי
said		And Saul			unto Samuel	I have sinned		for I have transgressed
H559		H7586		H413	H8050	H2398	H3588	H5674
אֶת	פִּי	יְהוָה	וְאֶת	דְּבַר יְיָ	כִּי	יָרֵא אֶתִי		
H853	the commandment	of the LORD	H853	and thy words	H3588	because I feared		
	H6310	H3068		H1697		H3372		
אֶת	הָעָם	וְאִשְׁמָעֵל	בְּקוֹלָם:					
H853	the people	and obeyed	their voice					
	H5971	H8085	H6963					

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 12:13** (Sin): And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

**Proverbs 29:25** (References Lord): The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

**Numbers 22:34** (Sin): And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.

**Revelation 21:8** (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

**Exodus 23:2** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

**Galatians 1:10** (Parallel theme): For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

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