

# 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

**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

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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שָׁמַדְתִּי	פִּי	עָבֵד	רָתַּי
<b>I have sinned</b>	<b>H3588</b>	<b>for I have transgressed</b>	<b>H5674</b>
אַתָּה	פִּי	אַתָּה	רָתַּי
<b>the commandment</b>	<b>H6310</b>	<b>of the LORD</b>	<b>H3068</b>
<b>and thy words</b>	<b>H1697</b>	<b>because I feared</b>	<b>H3372</b>
בְּקָוְלָם:	עָשָׂה	מִשְׁעָן	אַתָּה
<b>the people</b>	<b>H5971</b>	<b>and obeyed</b>	<b>H8085</b>
<b>their voice</b>	<b>H6963</b>		

## 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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