

# 1 Samuel 16:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.**

The therapeutic effect of David's music - Saul 'refreshed' (rawach), made 'well' (tov), with the evil spirit departing - demonstrates music's genuine spiritual power. The Hebrew suggests physical relief and restored breathing, indicating psychosomatic healing. Yet this relief was temporary, requiring repeated ministry. David's faithful service despite Saul's deteriorating condition models perseverance in difficult ministry circumstances.

## Historical Context

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The harp (kinnor) produced soothing tones suited to calming agitation. David's skill, developed through years of wilderness praise, now served immediate therapeutic purpose. The pattern of relief followed by return of symptoms characterizes Saul's spiritual condition throughout his remaining reign.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How might your Spirit-filled worship serve as ministry to troubled souls around you?
2. What does the temporary nature of Saul's relief teach about the limits of human remedies without genuine repentance?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּהִי וְתִ וְבִי הָ רַ וְעַ אֶלְהִים

H1961 H1961 And it came to pass when the evil spirit from God H413

H7307

H430

בְּיַד וְ יָכֵג | בְּיַד וְ פָסֵג וְרַ אֶת אֶלְעָן כְּלַשְׁאוֹל

so Saul took that David an harp and played with his hand

H7586

H3947

H1732

H853

H3658

H5059

H3027

מְעַל וְ יָסַבְהַ לְזַבְעַל לְשַׁאוֹל יָכֵג כְּ

was refreshed

so Saul

and was well

departed

H5921

H7304

H7586

H2895

H0

H5493

רַ וְעַ בְּרַעְמָה:

And it came to pass when the evil spirit and the evil

H7307

H7451