

# 1 Samuel 19:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

## Analysis

**And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah.**

Saul's own experience of the Spirit's power - prophesying continuously from Sechu to Naioth - reveals God's sovereign ability to neutralize any threat. The phrase 'the Spirit of God was upon him also' places Saul alongside his messengers in involuntary prophetic seizure. Even the king could not escape divine control. This public prophesying humiliated Saul while protecting David.

## Historical Context

Ecstatic prophetic experience could involve prolonged states of heightened spiritual activity. Saul's journey from Sechu to Naioth under Spirit-influence would have been publicly observable. The experience recalled his earlier prophetic encounter after anointing (10:10-12).

## Related Passages

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes use spiritual experiences to protect His servants from powerful enemies?
2. What does Saul's involuntary prophesying teach about the Spirit's sovereignty over even hostile hearts?

## Interlinear Text

וְאֵם	גָּם	עַל	וְיִתְהַלֵּךְ	בְּרִמָה	בְּנֵי תְּהִלָּה	אֶל	שָׁמֶן	כְּלֹזֶן
on	H8033	H413	<b>thither to Naioth</b>	<b>in Ramah</b>				
H1980			H5121	H7414				
and the Spirit	of God	And he went	on	and prophesied	עד	וַיַּתְהַלֵּךְ אֶל	בְּרִמָה	בְּנֵי תְּהִלָּה
H7307	H430	H3212	H1980	H5012	H5704			
until he came	<b>thither to Naioth</b>	<b>in Ramah</b>						
H935	H5121	H7414						

## Additional Cross-References

**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.

**Proverbs 16:9** (Parallel theme): A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

**1 Samuel 19:20** (Spirit): And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.