

# Great Things He Has Done

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## Happy Wednesday!

“And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty... Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.” - 1 Samuel 12:20-21, 24 ESV

Being honest is a rare trait in my opinion. Some of us may display our honesty in some ways yet hide honesty in others. Some of us live in a realm of “half-truths” And forget that the other half of a half truth is a lie. And yet, when we aren’t even honest with ourselves, how can we be honest with others? How can we be honest with God?

The verses today talk about *setting aside evil to trust in the Lord*. On this mark we must be honest with ourselves to know what evil we have done in order to know what we need to set aside. The caution is not to turn away from the Lord to pursue worthless things, so *using the Bible to interpret the Bible* would tell us that the evil we need to set aside is keeping us from trusting in the Lord.

Maybe we’re pursuing our own understanding and trying to solve our own problems without asking God for His all-encompassing wisdom. Maybe we’re ignoring or overlooking God. Maybe we have forgotten God. Maybe we don’t care...

Whatever it is, honesty begins here: be honest with yourself to see where you are turning away from God. Each of us can find some areas of our lives that may not be fully given to Him. In case you need some encouragement, the verses above instruct us to *consider what Great things He has done for you*.

Look backward over your life and look for God’s hand: the breath in your lungs comes from Him. He gave you your first breath and your body responds now from His borrowed breath. Your pulse is from Him. Your legs, your eyes, your ears - either you see in your life that EVERY GOOD thing is from Him or you’ll see through a distorted lens than *nothing is* from Him. What a discouraging and unhelpful place of depression and doom that is...

Look back in your life at the good hand of God, and you’ll see how He has always been there - even when you didn’t notice Him - and you will be able to trust Him in your next breath, and the next breath, and the next breath, and the one after that... How He has proven Himself over and over. Let’s agree to be honest with ourselves today, so we can be honest with God and put our trust in Him and in His plans.

God, I thank you that You see my past, my present, and my future and You're never going to let me down. You're not afraid of me and my rebellion - you love me when I'm on the mountain tops and in low valleys. You love me when I'm on cloud 9 and when I can't get out of bed from grips of grief and pain. You never fail and You never change. You love me through changes. Help me be strong in nothing if I'm not strong in You. I can't outrun your goodness, and you've been so good to me for my whole life - even when I didn't know you and didn't deserve your goodness.

"You Hold It All Together" by Upper Room <https://youtu.be/hSMJa5tImRU?si=zZ-YCSc69Uo5vdrE>

"I Can't Get Away" by Melissa Helser and Naomi Raine  
<https://youtu.be/l2g9iy9th10?si=yMyOh5Vlt7w9M0EY>

"Sparrows" by Cory Asbury <https://youtu.be/-YgFOucaZ60?si=4a3ffddss875F6Wm>

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