

## 1 Samuel 7 Lessons and Principles

1. Israel had the Ark of the Covenant back in their possession, but this still did not make them right with God. We can go to Church every Sunday, attend Bible Study Sunday morning and on Wednesdays, read our Bible daily, go into our closet and pray, but unless our heart is right with God it is all for naught
2. Samuel called on Israel first to "return with all your hearts", then put away your foreign gods. The inward repentance is more important than the outward worship. If we have drifted away from God, we must first and foremost get our hearts right with Him, then put away our idols.
3. Israel felt they had not rejected God by worshipping the idols of the Canaanites but only added to their worship. We can make the same mistake today by not making Almighty God our one and only god.
4. A repentant sinner, whether it be a new believer in Christ or one returning to the Lord, as in the Israelites, needs our prayers. God's work in them can only be completed with prayer.
5. Israel expressed sorrow for their action by fasting and confession. Confession is vital to maintain a relationship with God. See (1 John 1:5-10)
6. In verses 10-12 the Philistines attacked the Israelites again, but God fought from heaven for the Israelites and the Philistines were soundly defeated, why? Why was it different than the battle in chapter 4? In both battles they had the Ark of God with them, except in this battle they had repented and sought the Lord.