



Six Ingredients Of Influence

“So the children of Israel said to Samuel, ‘Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines.’ And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord. Then Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him.” ~1 Samuel 7:8-9, nkjv

I love to read about Samuel. He was so consistent, unwavering and godly. Today, as we look around ..and as many of our faithful leaders gradually pass off the scene.. there unfortunately seems to be a real power vacuum among leadership everywhere. But Samuel was just the leader that Israel needed at that time.

He wasn't at all self promoting, flaky, conniving, bribable, cruel, slippery, or grasping for power, but he had influence that was greatly respect everywhere he went.

Do you ever wonder what it was that made people want to listen and follow him as He followed the Lord? There were at least six good qualities that gained him the influence to be a viable world-changer and these could help us as well. Check em out...

1.) Concern – Not a feigned concern, but a genuine deep concern did Samuel have for what God cared about and for God's people themselves. He was real and wasn't in it for himself. Do you have a spiritual burden for lost and lonely people—that supernaturally deep heartfelt concern for their future welfare? You should and can!

2.) Commitment – Samuel didn't have a divided heart, God had given him a whole heart. He wasn't a perfect man, but He made the decision to be 100% committed to the Lord and to His purposes ..minus spiritual compromise. He hated sin and Satan, but he loved God more than he loved the people God wanted him to serve and love. He had faith that God could meet all his personal needs as well as all the needs of Israel.. if they would just believe. The reason that people sin is that, A. They neglect the truth of the Scriptures and B. They, deep down in their hearts do not believe that God will meet all their needs. They actually believe that a certain sin or some sins will be fulfilling for them. They miss appropriating from God that which is good and instead settle for what is not good. God shows us all how to avoid sinning and to see all our needs met in His Word. An ole friend of mine once told me, *“This Book will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from this Book.”*

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word. With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” ~Psalm 119:9-11

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” ~2 Timothy 2:22, nkjv

*“Then He said to them, ‘Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation’”
Jesus, Luke 22:46*

3.) **Competence** – Samuel was a gifted man—God gave him many gifts and with all gifts comes responsibility. So he prayed for others and he heard from the Lord. Do you have a right relationship with God.. and intimacy like Sam enjoyed? As Samuel heard from the Lord he could see the future unfold and he also knew how to act when crisis came. Do you have wisdom, insight, and discernment from God? Have you asked Him for these blessings? Samuel’s god-given abilities coupled with his proper application of the Scriptures gave many people a desire to hear him!

4.) **Connection** – Can you connect with a person in trouble? Samuel had his priorities in order and he knew how to connect with individuals. He knew their culture, their language, their worries, their setbacks, and he expressed compassion for them in their various predicaments. Jesus Christ can help you and me give a flip as well! **Some singers and preachers I've known have told me how they really need the audience to love them, but I want to love the audience.. and connect with the individual in need within that audience.. while always loving God more. There's more to life and cameras and crowds!**

Some high profile singers, actors and preachers that I’ve met have told me how they love the crowds and TV cameras, and I really can’t see hearts or fault anyone for wanting to extend their reach if their message and their mission are biblical, but they always avoid the individuals and that's just wrong! Sure we can get so busy with the people to the point where we are not good for the people ..if we neglect out quiet devotions with the Lord. Some so called ministers have become experts in arriving late to worship etc and in slipping out the back door before people could approach em. Individuals, especially “the chronics” could be a time-suck they felt ..and they'd even express this. Stinkin' thinkin'! Have you become too big for individuals? Jesus Christ was the most fruitful person I know, and no matter how many crowds clamored for his attention ..all through his earthly ministry time.. He never got tired of people, got weary of stealing away to go pray to His Father, or so big in His own eyes that He wouldn't take the time to stop, to focus, to listen carefully and to minister to an individual in need. Minister means servant and He was the suffering Servant. Remember how he wept with those who weep and laughed with those rejoicing? Remember how he washed feet.. one foot at a time rather than thousands at a time? Hey, good time management under the Lordship of Christ is so important today, but such management will include righteously connecting with God, with small groups and indeed with individuals! BTW: Many pastors and singers I know do such a great job at making themselves available to pray for and share Scripture with anyone.

“And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, ‘You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, A Stone).” ~John 1:42

“And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him,”Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” ~Luke 19:5

5.) **Character** – Unlike the man Eli who raised him, Samuel exuded integrity. The people of Israel fully trusted Samuel not only because he had a good track record (past behavior often dictates future behavior), but because he was honest in the way that he approached every area of life. They knew that he’d listen and that even if they didn’t lead em exactly as they felt he should, He would have their best interests at heart. Even today the masses don’t always know what is best for themselves and our duty is not to please people—it’s to obey the Lord in how we lead. Father always knows best, but people can tell if you have your own interests in mind or theirs. They considered Samuel fully trustworthy, dependable, straightforward knew that he would faithfully intercede for them before the Lord. Do you pray for those around you and lead them to the Word of God? I’ve found that it’s better to pray short prayers in public and long in private. Billy Graham always did that. And I would say that “if” anyone should be considered as a prophet for a nation today as Samuel was back in his day, it would have to be Billy ..who has indeed exhibited godly character and hasn’t been out to impress anyone.

6.) Communication - Samuel was a thorough communicator of that which was good. He prayed regularly first talking to God about men, before talking to men about God. And he enjoyed sweet dialogue or communion with the Lord rather than a mere monologue. It would appear that he was never negligent in clearly getting the Lord's message (The Word of God), rather than his own message, across to the people in a way that they could best understand it for application's sake. Are you a father and do you do this for your family? Are you a business owner and do you communicate with your employees in a way that honors the Lord? Are you a friend who reaches out with truth and love to those who hang with you and who don't yet? God expects every Christian to live the life as Samuel did and to communicate the truth, witnessing for Him.

Do you really think that God's Message will return void without accomplishing what He sends it forth to do? Come on; there were valid reasons why Paul told his son in the faith to...

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” ~2 Timothy 4:2-5

To sum things up... Concern + Commitment + Competence + Connection + Character + Communication = godly influence ..that changes lives! So, will you choose to be a world-changer as Samuel was?

Have you personally applied the blood of Jesus by faith? Do you have a prayer request or some questions about knowing God ..and how to properly walk in Jesus Christ? At fish4souls.org click "**Contact**" and let us know! Perhaps we can help. Follow.. [Facebook.com/ShareJesus](https://www.facebook.com/ShareJesus) or [Google Buzz](https://www.google.com/buzz/) or at [Twitter.com/kurtwvs](https://twitter.com/kurtwvs)

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