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## SERMON OUTLINE

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### A Misplaced Faith

1 Samuel 4

- I. A false faith always fails us (1 Samuel 4:1-11)
  - A. When Israel lost to the Philistines the elders brought the ark of God to battle as a good luck charm instead of consulting with God (4:1-5).
    - Will we seek God's word, or trust in our own spiritual ideas?
    - Religious enthusiasm does not prove godly sincerity.
  - B. The Philistines thought the ark was Israel's idol and determined to fight even harder (4:6-9).
    - Trust in our religious ideas or artifacts make our faith indistinguishable from false beliefs.
  - C. The Philistines defeated Israel again, capturing the ark of God and killing Eli's sons (4:10-11).
    - God allows our false views of spirituality or our self-reliance to fail.
- II. Disregarding God's glory always brings consequences (1 Samuel 4:12-22)
  - A. Eli the priest dies in grief when he hears that the ark of God was captured (1 Samuel 4:12-18).
    - Regrets at life's end can only be avoided by decisions today.
  - B. Eli's daughter-in-law dies in childbirth and names her son Ichabod because God's glory was gone (1 Samuel 4:19-22)
    - Failing to experience of God's glorious power is our greatest loss.

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Open Door Bible Church 1-5-14

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