

## MOA adjustments in a Man's Spiritual Life I

We are quite advanced from the days of the founding of this great country. We now have the ability to zoom our sights through the use of telescopic sights known as scopes.

- The scope I hold before you has turrets mounted on the tube by which you are able to adjust the windage and elevation of the scope to zero the bullet's impact at a certain distance.
- This windage and elevation adjustment on the scope is known as the MOA.
- Rifleshooter Magazine defines MOA this way: "Most firearm sighting scopes incorporate windage and elevation adjustments referenced to the MOA (minute of angle). Each click of the scope turret is usually 1/4 MOA change. Normally, shooters refer to these adjustments as a change of a fraction of an inch at 100 yards. The value of inch is a nice easy number to work with and most of us can easily visualize its length and its multiples without the aid of a calculator."
- They go on to say: For serious target shooting and as shooting distances increase the attention to MOA value relative to sight adjustment becomes essential."

**THE PROBLEM:** The target you are aiming at may be valid, but IS the MOA of your spiritual life such that you will hit that target as it is moved further and further down range? (Suppose 1 yr., 5 yrs., 10 yrs., 20 yrs.)

**THE SOLUTION:** A constant review of the target and the practice necessary to achieve accuracy at any distance.

**THE FACT:** Men have been used mightily of the Spirit in their lives only to find later they have been put on the shelf by God.

- God's word to Saul in 1 Samuel 13:13-14 is the same word to men today!
- Saul had reached a point in his life that under the pressure of leadership he showed fatal flaws.  
"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure..."
- The word "foolishly" doesn't indicate a lack of intelligence, but a lack of moral and spiritual insight.
- The fool is impetuous, tends to rebellion, and insists on his own way.

- Only a growing relationship with the Lord and submission to Him can free us from the foolishness that is bound up in the heart of everyone (Prov. 22:15).
- No wonder “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (1:7).
- To me, this is one of the most dreadful things that could ever happen. Yet it happened to Saul, the king of Israel.
- In essence, Samuel was speaking for the Lord and saying to Saul, “I’m sorry, son—I love you, I forgive you, and my mercy will come through for you. But I can’t use you.”
- God told the king, “Saul, you could have had my blessing in your life continually. I had great plans for you, plans to use you mightily. But you wouldn’t deal with your sin. You have become bitter and hardhearted.”
- And from that moment Saul was no longer of use to the kingdom.

That’s where we all end up when we continue in sin: You become absolutely barren and fruitless.

- Proverbs 14:27 declares that “the fear of God is a fountain of life.”
- In the same verse we read that this fear helps us avoid the snares of death.
- In Proverbs 3:7 we read, “...fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”
- And in Hebrews 12:28 we are instructed to “...serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

I believe God has placed a different meaning on the term MOA for us tonight that goes along with this idea of adjustments for the long range targets in our lives.

### **The MOA in a Man’s Spiritual Life Means...**

“The MOMENT OF ACTION when we are faced with choices/decisions that impact our relationship with God and others.”

God’s Word is simple:

**Is God dealing with you about sin in your life? Are there actions in your life that are affecting the impact of your life on God’s long range targets for you? Have you made the necessary MOA adjustments to hit the mark God has for you?**

- Samuel said to Saul, “You acted foolishly.”
- Saul’s MOMENT OF ACTION adjustments were selfish and destructive to him, his family, even his kingdom!
- Whereas, God’s MOMENT OF ACTION adjustments are perfect and bring a sense of conviction to a man’s heart.
- God wants to establish his divine power in you, and to teach you...“Only through my holy fear will you depart from your sin.”

Don’t panic! Even if you have missed the mark you are still on the range! God has led you here for a MOA adjustment in your life! This is your MOA (MOMENT OF ACTION) adjustment! You can get sighted in on His mark! That is the gift of God!

**What do we mean by MOA adjustments or MOMENT OF ACTION adjustments in our spiritual lives?**

- MOMENT OF ACTION adjustments will happen only when we walk in the fear of the Lord daily.
- In short, MOA adjustment means reminding yourself of his warnings.
- It means allowing the Holy Spirit to bring your sins out into the open for you to acknowledge and cast them far away from you.

God wants to use your MOA adjustments to lay the foundation to fulfill every one of His promises to you.

Acts 9:31 tells us, “Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord”.

- This was Saul #2 in the New Testament and the impact of his MOMENT OF ACTION adjustments on the church.
- Do you see the writer’s point here?

As Saul believed and became a Christ follower he made MOMENT OF ACTION adjustments, walking in the fear of God, and the church received the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Once you’re convinced of the exceeding sinfulness of your sin, you’ll be ready for the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

God said to Jeremiah: “I the Lord search the heart” (Jeremiah 17:10).

The Hebrew meaning for this phrase is, “I penetrate, I examine deeply.”

God wants to penetrate the hardness of our heart and to examine deeply the motives of our decisions.

Are you willing to pray, "Search me O God and know my heart. Try me and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of life everlasting, O God, my God."

### **MOA adjustments in a Man's Spiritual Life II**

"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22).

#### **"Obedience is better than sacrifice."**

This is the deepest meaning in the story of Abraham offering Isaac on the altar.

- God said, "Go and do this." He obeyed.
- Did Abraham leave that altar saying, "God changed his mind"? I don't think so.

God wanted immediate obedience. God tells you to act and gives you evidence that you will receive a certain thing. You do it. You do everything in your power to obey. But you don't get it!

What now? Shall I question God? Shall I doubt he spoke to me? Shall I believe Satan hindered me?

No! You sought the Lord diligently. He said, "Do this," and you did it. You rest in the peace of obedience.

- The servant must obey without question!
- That is faith: When a master commands his servant to go, he goes; to come, and he comes.

Job said "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him".

Men of great faith face the fieriest trials.

- God has peculiar ways of developing faith, and the deeper in God you go, the more peculiar your testing will be.
- Don't think that afflictions are necessarily proof you are displeasing him!

- Miracles are produced only amidst impossibilities. So be a man of faith—then ready yourself for a life of testing.

Faith comes by using what you have. Don't wait for obstacles to be removed. Go for it! The most critical part of faith is "the last half hour."

The Word for right now is:

**"There is no such thing as leadership apart from action. But, for the man of God who leads it is not just action that matters, it is *obedient* action."**

To be a leader is a sacred trust. Our faithfulness in doing what God says is what really matters.

The words we read from 1 Samuel 15 need to be permanently chiseled in our hearts and minds.

- Samuel had given clear direction to Saul that he and his people were to destroy the Amalekites, including their livestock.
- God revealed to Samuel that Saul had not obeyed and Samuel confronted Saul in this passage.
- Saul then protested that he had obeyed God.
- That's when these verses come alive to us as leaders... "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22).
- When God is specific and clear about what He wants you to do, He does not give you the option to freelance or to improvise. "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry."
- Presumption is called iniquity and idolatry.
- When you choose your way over His way, you commit idolatry because, in essence, you are saying that your wisdom is superior to God's. You are acting as though you are God.
- This passage shows that "Good isn't good enough when it comes to obedience." (There's no room for C+ or B- in our obedience)
- There's no such thing as partial obedience.

**Partial obedience flows from faulty perception!**

- This is an "authority" issue in all of our lives.
- Your attitude toward obedience is influenced by your attitude toward "authority."

- Partial obedience in our lives is because you either have problems trusting God, or you have developed your own theology, making God a “softer God” who demands very little of you.

“God loves you with an infinite, unimaginable love. God is nothing like an abusive, neglectful earthly parent. God is not a needy, insecure, power-hungry leader. Your concept of God should not emerge from the painful bitter experiences of this life. You dare not let your view of Him be contaminated with the sinful inconsistencies and imperfections of His fallen creation and creatures. Your concept of God and the nature of His “authority” should be derived from what He says about Himself in His Word and not from your experiences or your speculations about whom and what He should be like. God is to be trusted and to be completely obeyed. He is our Creator and the “ultimate authority.”

Romans 12:1,2 “And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.  
<sup>2</sup> Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

Proverbs 3:5,6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

God said in 1 Samuel 15:11 “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.”

- What a devastating word to come from God... “I regret I made Saul king”
- God forbid that He look on us as men at a time in history where men of God need to stand up and be counted more than ever before and say to Himself, “I regret these men are in leadership.” Paul then writes in Acts 13:22, God removed Saul and “raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, “I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.”

This brings us to our **MAIN ACTION POINT** of this message:

**“What was the difference between David and Saul?”**

David had cultivated a tender, responsive heart toward God. How would you characterize your heart before Him: tender and responsive or complacent and callus?

At the end of the day David wanted more than anything else to please God and honor Him.

Does your MOA (Moment Of Action) reflect adjustments that target pleasing and honoring God daily?

Just a thought...

Setting the MOA on a new scope is much easier if you start out at 35 yards rather than at 250 yards.

Likewise...

Setting the MOA of your spiritual life is much easier if you start each day with prayer and the Word rather than relying on a once-a-week gathering to get you on target.