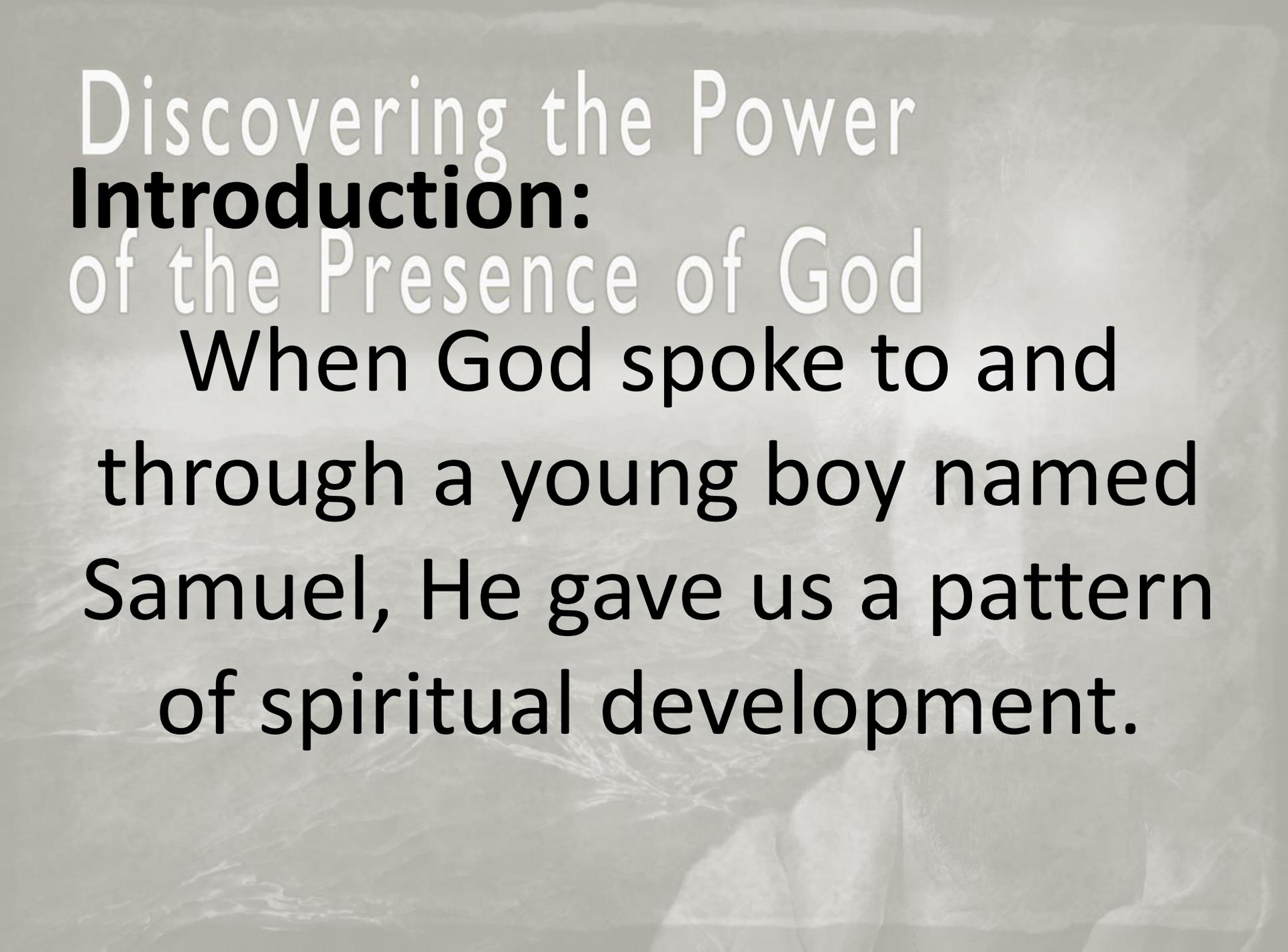


Discovering the Power of the Presence of God



GOD'S PRIVATE PRESENCE



Discovering the Power **Introduction:** of the Presence of God

When God spoke to and
through a young boy named
Samuel, He gave us a pattern
of spiritual development.

Discovering the Power

Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.

**Discovering the Power
of the Presence of God**

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

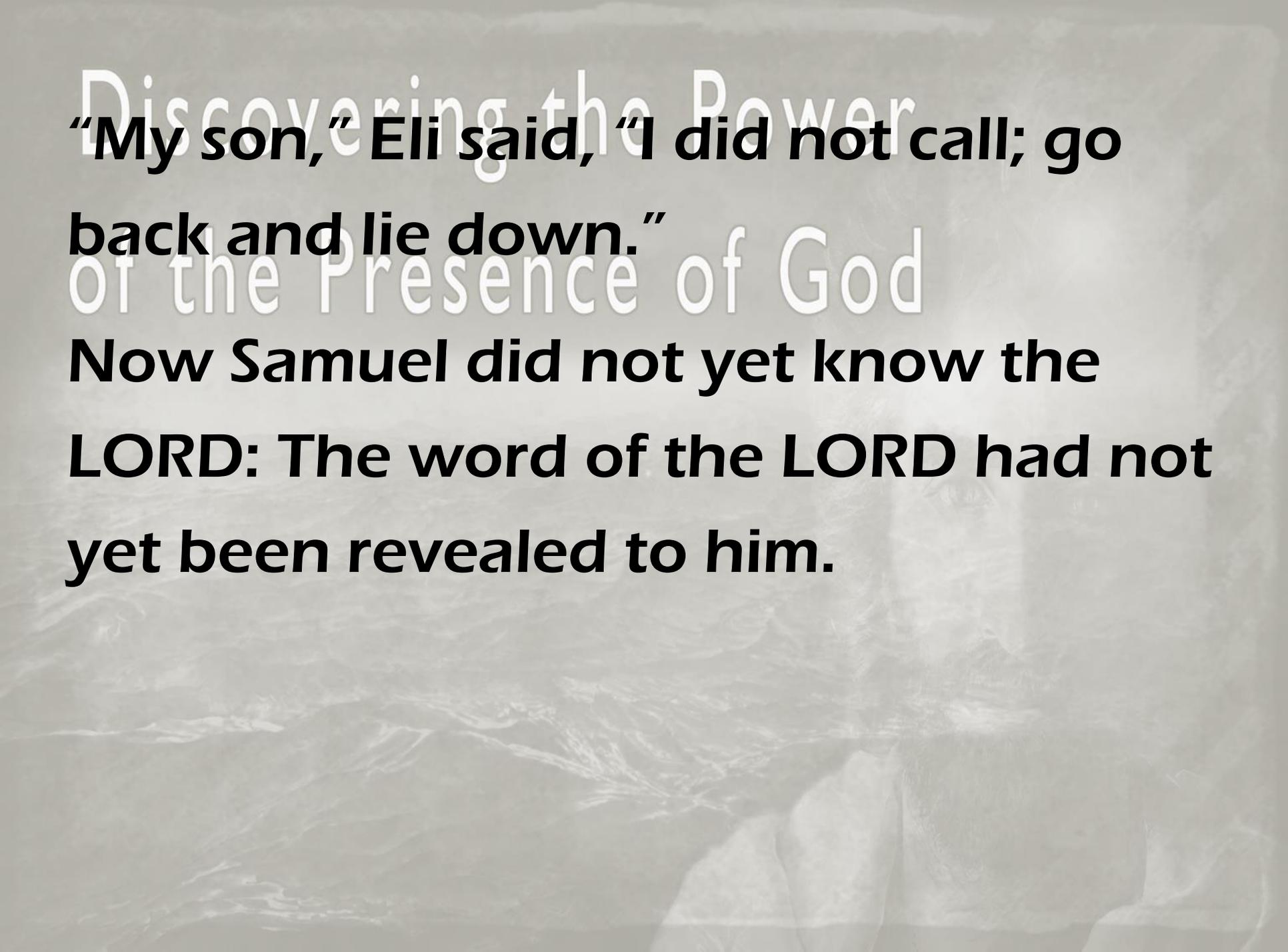
Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

**Discovering the Power
of the Presence of God**

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

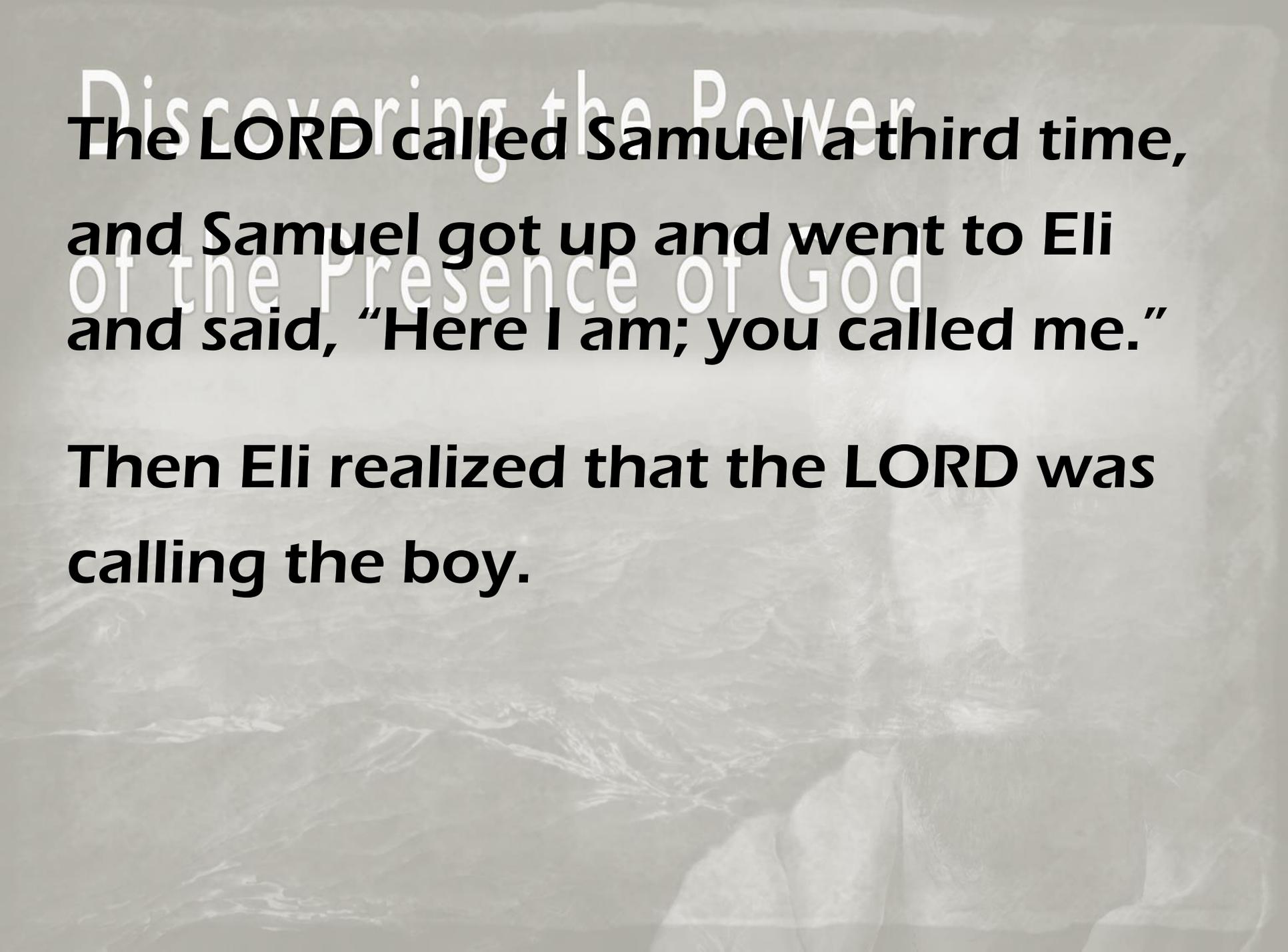


Discovering the Power
“My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go
back and lie down.”

of the Presence of God

Now Samuel did not yet know the

LORD: The word of the LORD had not
yet been revealed to him.



**Discovering the Power
of the Presence of God**

**The LORD called Samuel a third time,
and Samuel got up and went to Eli
and said, "Here I am; you called me."**

**Then Eli realized that the LORD was
calling the boy.**

**Discovering the Power
of the Presence of God**

**So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down,
and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD,
for your servant is listening.'"**

**So Samuel went and lay down in his
place.**

**The LORD came and stood there,
calling as at the other times, "Samuel!
Samuel!"**

Discovering the Power
Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your
servant is listening."

of the Presence of God

**And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I
am about to do something in Israel
that will make the ears of everyone
who hears of it tingle.**

**Discovering the Power
of the Presence of God**

At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family— from beginning to end.

For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.

**Discovering the Power
of the Presence of God**

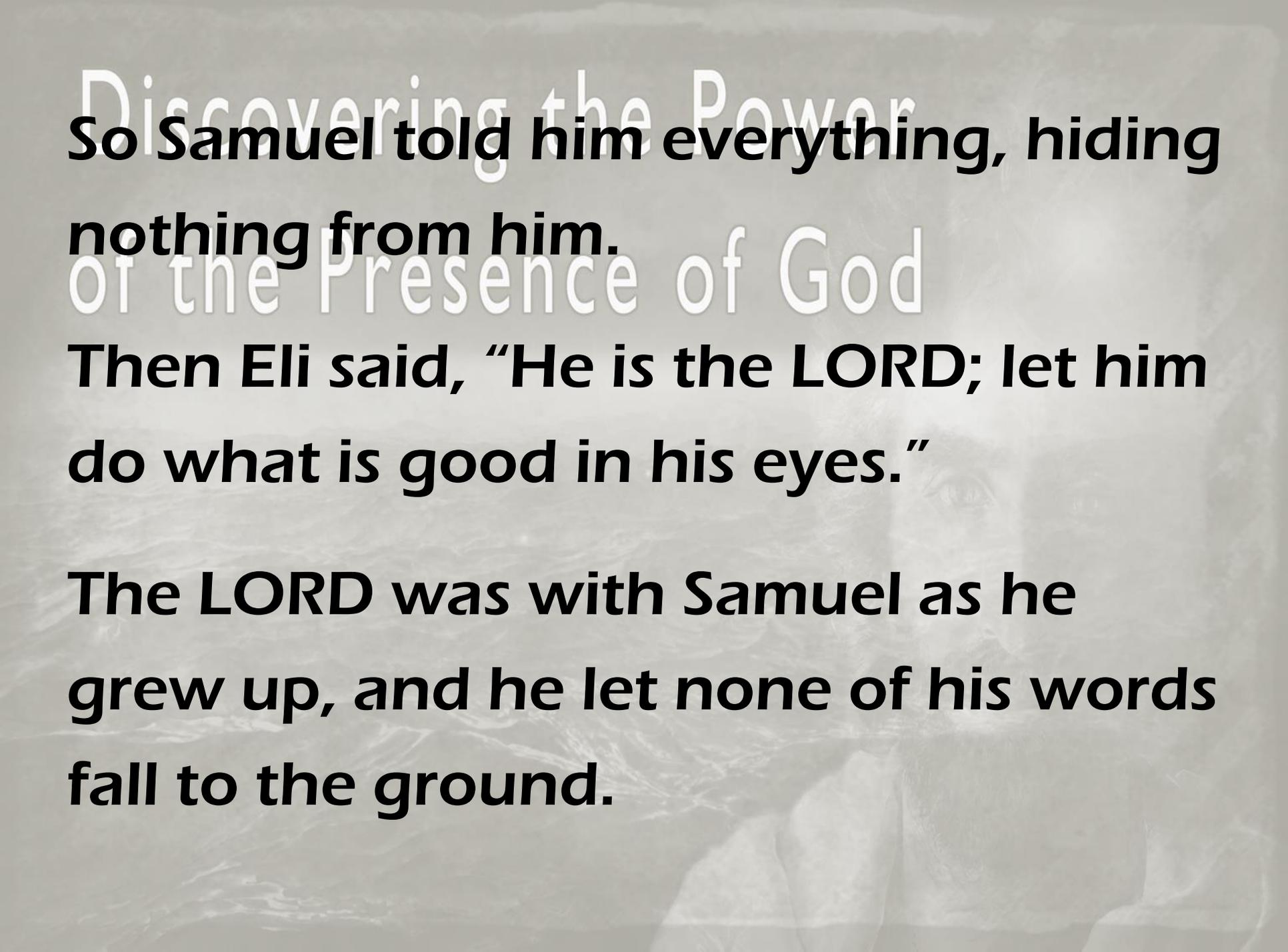
**Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli,
'The guilt of Eli's house will never be
atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"**

**Samuel lay down until morning and
then opened the doors of the house
of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli
the vision, but Eli called him and said,
"Samuel, my son."**

Discovering the Power
Samuel answered, "Here I am."

Of the Presence of God
"What was it he said to you?" Eli
asked.

**"Do not hide it from me. May God deal
with you, be it ever so severely, if you
hide from me anything he told you."**



Discovering the Power
So Samuel told him everything, hiding
nothing from him.

of the Presence of God

Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him
do what is good in his eyes."

The LORD was with Samuel as he
grew up, and he let none of his words
fall to the ground.

**Discovering the Power
of the Presence of God**

**And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba
recognized that Samuel was attested
as a prophet of the LORD.**

**The LORD continued to appear at
Shiloh, and there he revealed himself
to Samuel through his word.**

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Samuel: Discovering the Power

Lived in a time when his people desperately needed **LEADERS** with genuine **SPIRITUAL** insight (3:1).

Hadn't yet learned to **RECOGNIZE** the voice of God when he first began to **HEAR** it (3:7).

Samuel: Discovering the Power

Needed help and encouragement in learning *how* to **LISTEN** to God (3:8-9).

Was greatly used by God to **ACCURATELY** proclaim His Word (3:10-21).

Samuel: Discovering the Power

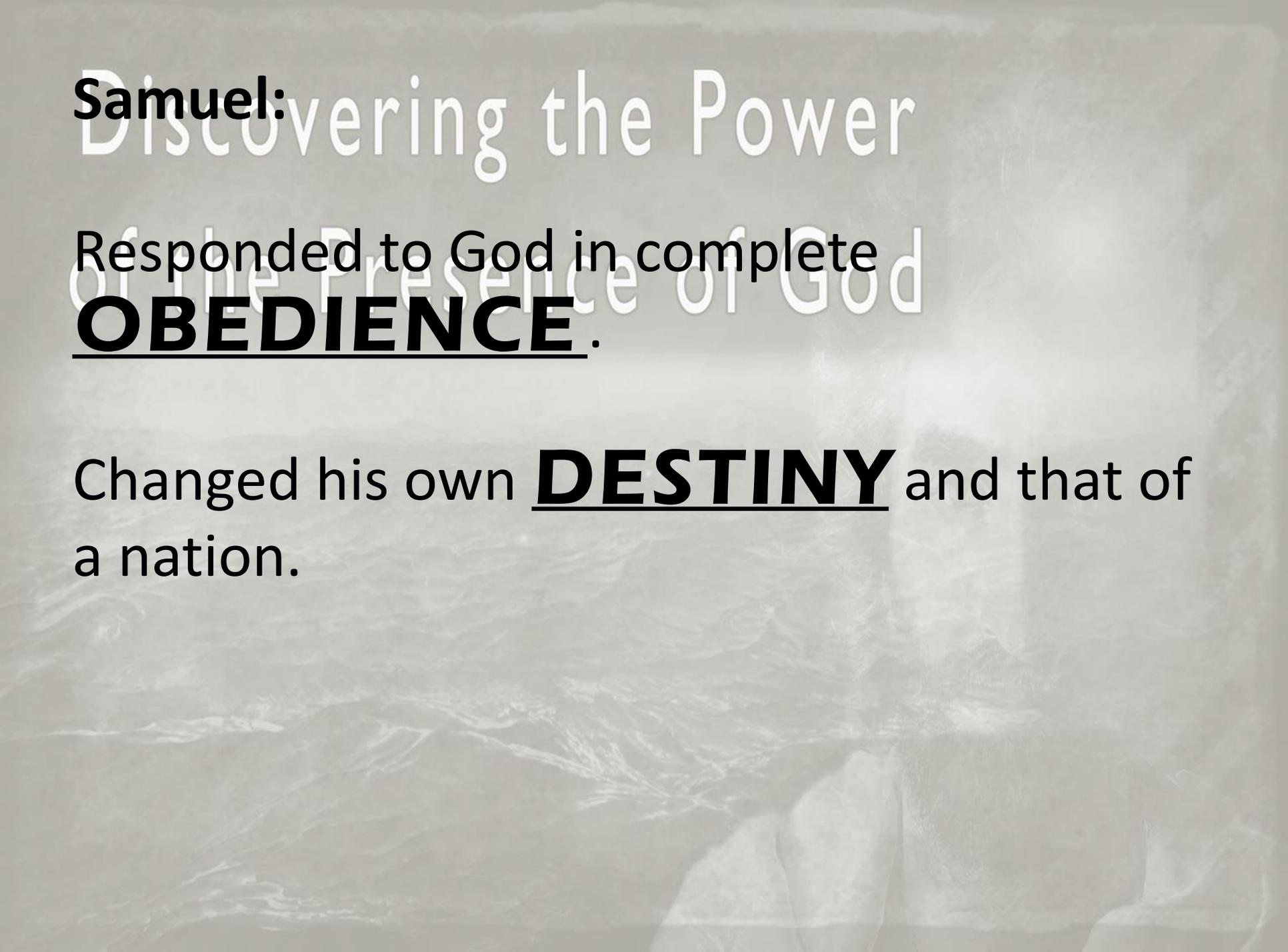
Began to talk to **GOD** and eventually
talked to **ISRAEL**.

Began in **UNCERTAINTY** and ended
in **ASSURANCE**.

Samuel: Discovering the Power

Recognized a divine **STIRRING** within his spirit.

Made himself available to **HEAR** from God.



Samuel: Discovering the Power

Responded to God in complete
OBEDIENCE.

Changed his own **DESTINY** and that of
a nation.

Discovering the Power

Conclusion:

We will never become the spiritual leaders God needs us to be by listening to other people alone. We must learn to spend time with God and to hear HIS voice.

Discovering the Power of the Presence of God



GOD'S PRIVATE PRESENCE