

Othniel

Jair

Ehud

Jephthah

Shamgar

Ibsan

Deborah & Barak

Elon

Gideon

Abdon

Tola

Samson

**Spiritual
failure**

God raises up a
judge to deliver

Oppression
by enemies

Cry to God
for mercy



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SIN



SALVATION

SERVITUDE



SUPPLICATION



A close-up photograph of dark green leaves, likely from a tree or shrub, covered in numerous small, clear water droplets. The leaves are densely packed and fill the entire frame. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the glistening of the water droplets.

“There was no king in Israel ...”

The background of the slide is a dark green, almost black, image of many leaves. The leaves are covered in small, clear water droplets, giving them a fresh, dewy appearance. The lighting is soft, highlighting the veins and edges of the leaves.

***The Peril of
Personalized Religion***

Judges 17

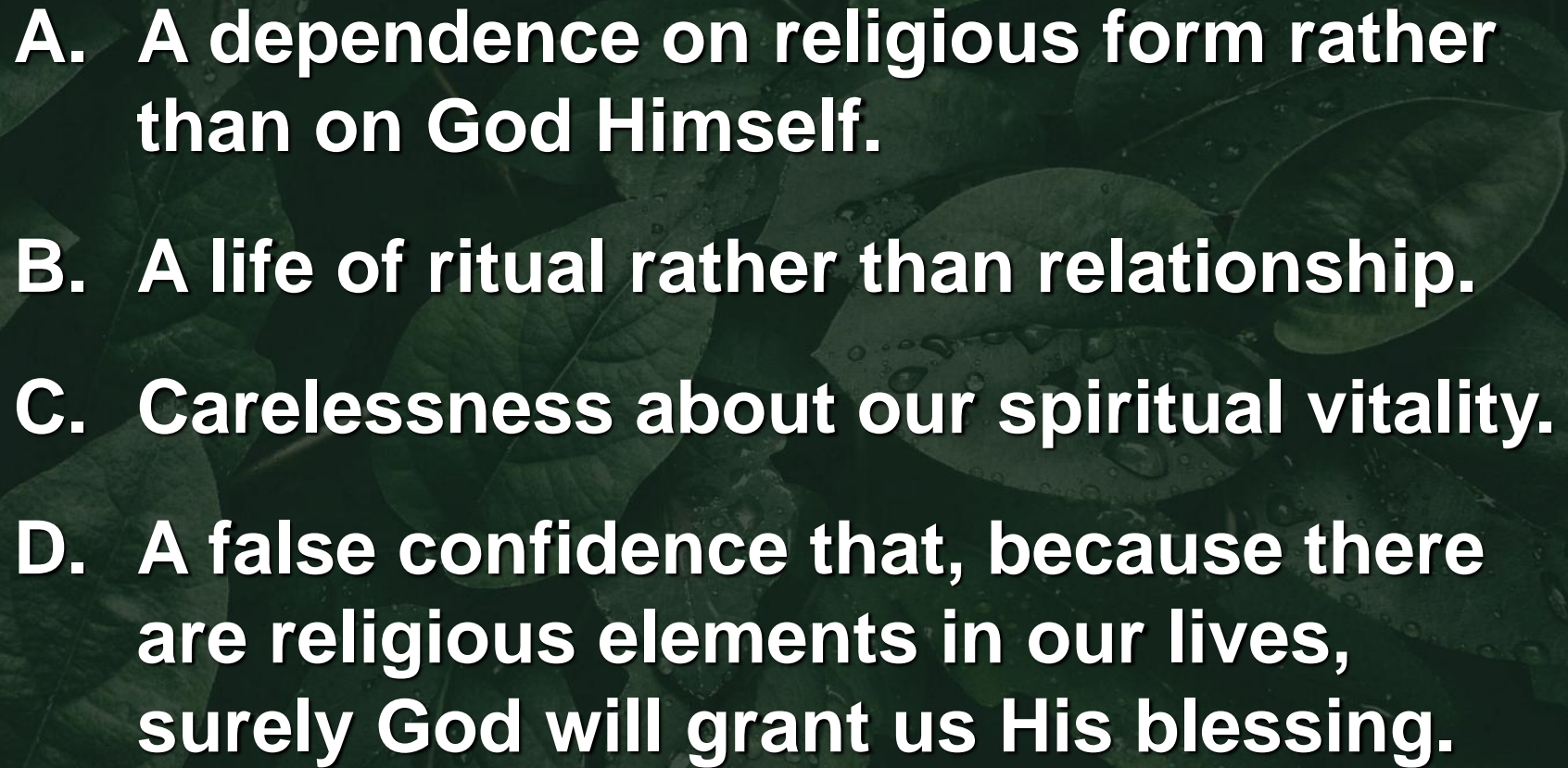
People want to set their own religious parameters. They'll sacrifice to bring about the kind of religious experience that they desire. They'll invest their time and energy in it. They'll faithfully worship and demonstrate commitment. They'll do it in the name of God, and consequently, they expect His blessing. Yet everything is on their own terms.

A background image of dark green, glossy leaves with numerous small water droplets scattered across their surfaces. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the clarity of the droplets.

**Are you serving God on
His terms, or yours?**

- 1. Having a moral victory doesn't mean that you're really serving God.**
- 2. Sacrificing your money in support of God's work doesn't mean that you're really serving Him.**
- 3. Being faithful in worship doesn't mean that you're really serving God.**

- 4. Supporting & appreciating someone who is in God's service doesn't mean you're really serving God.**
- 5. Having God as the expressed focus of your worship and service doesn't mean that you're really serving Him.**
- 6. Having a desire for God's blessing doesn't mean you're really serving Him.**

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- A. A dependence on religious form rather than on God Himself.**
 - B. A life of ritual rather than relationship.**
 - C. Carelessness about our spiritual vitality.**
 - D. A false confidence that, because there are religious elements in our lives, surely God will grant us His blessing.**

If the substance of our spiritual lives is as shallow as Micah's, then, in time, the pressures of life will eventually bring us to spiritual shipwreck and defeat.

It's not enough to do what's expected and go through the motions. We need a vital, growing relationship with the God of the universe.

Hebrews 4 :14 -16

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”