



Samson - Gifted by God Broken by Sin

Primary Text: Judges 13 – 16

Focal Text (Used Throughout the Lesson)

Judges 13:3–5; 14:6 –9; 16:1; 16:20 & 28)

Introduction

Samson is one of the most gifted judges, but also one of the most self-destructive.

- Samson is introduced before his birth as **divinely chosen deliverer (Judges 13:3–5)**
- He is set apart as a Nazirite from the womb
- Yet his story ends not in victory, but in chains

Samson teaches us that **calling does not cancel responsibility**, and **strength does not replace obedience**.

Samson's Calling: Set Apart by God (Judges 13:3–5)

- **A Miraculous Birth and Divine Purpose** – An angel appears to Samson's parents. **His purpose:** "He shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines"
- **The Nazirite Vow** – Samson was set apart by God, Not drink wine or strong drink; Not to touch dead bodies, and not to cut his hair

Samson's calling was **not self-chosen** – it was God-ordained. Calling is a gift; faithfulness is a choice.

Samson's Strengths: Empowered by the Spirit (Judges 14:6)

- **Supernatural Strength** – Kills a lion with his bare hands, defeats 30 Philistines, kills 1,000 men with a donkey's jawbone
- **Courage and Fearlessness** – Willing to confront Israel's enemies, unafraid of overwhelming odds.

Samson's strength was **not in his hair, but in God's Spirit**. God can powerfully use flawed people – but power is not the same at maturity.

Samson's Weaknesses: Character Failures (Judges 14:8–9 & 16:1)

- **Weakness #1: Lust and Poor Choices (Judges 16:1)** – chooses Philistine women despite God's law, driven by desire and not discernment. Samson's eyes led him where his calling should not have gone.
- **Weakness #2: Disregard for God's Commands (Judges 14:8–9)** – Touches dead bodies, hosts drinking feasts, treats his Nazirite vow casually. Samson broke the spirit of the vow long before he broke the symbol of it.
- **Weakness #3: Pride and Playing with Sin (Judges 16:20)** – Treats sin like a game, flirts with danger (Delilah), assumes God will always bail him out. The greatest danger is not losing strength – **but losing God's presence**.

Samson's Fall and Final Act (Judges 16:28)

- **Loss Strength and Freedom** – hair cut, eyes gouged out, reduced to a prisoner and entertainer. This mirrors his spiritual state – blind, bound, and powerless.
- **A Moment of Repentance** – God grants one final act of strength and Samson destroys the Philistine temple. This is not a triumphant ending – **it is a tragic mercy**.

Conclusion

Lessons from Samson's Life & Key Takeaways

1. Calling does not replace character
2. Spiritual gifts do not excuse spiritual compromise
3. Unchecked weakness will eventually overpower strength
4. God is merciful, but consequences are real.

Final Thought

Samson had incredible strength, but lacked self-control. He defeated enemies – but never mastered himself. The greatest strength a believer can have is obedience to God.