

# God is the God of the Second Chance

## *“Lessons from the Life of Samson”*

---

Is it possible to be a strong person physically and to be a weakling spiritually? Samson was the strongest man who ever lived. Physically, he was incredibly strong. But spiritually and emotionally, he was a weakling.

Somebody said it's wise to learn from experience but it's wiser to learn from the experiences of others. Then we don't have to make the same mistakes.

When Samson became a teenager, he went his own way and did his own thing. One day he woke up to himself and realized he had lost everything.

There are three specific things we can identify in Samson's lifestyle that we need to avoid.

### **.... A lack of self-control will weaken us.**

It's no secret that Samson had a weakness for women. He didn't learn his lesson. He fell into one trap after another.

**Judges 14:1-3** (nlt)

Samson ignored the little things in his life and paid the consequences, how can we avoid the same fate? **Galatians 6:7-8** (tlb) *Do not be misled. Remember that you cannot ignore God and get away with it. A man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows. If he sows to please his own desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death...*

The first lesson we learn from Samson's life is **Strong people discipline their desires!**

**Proverbs 25:28** (msg) *A person without self-control is like a house with its doors and windows knocked out.*

The person who has no control and no discipline in their life is defenceless and left open for all kinds of temptations.

### **.... If we don't tame anger it will weaken us.**

When you look at the life of Samson, you see real quickly that Samson lived in a constant state of resentment and anger. He was always upset about something. The last few verses of **Judges 14** it says Samson burned with anger and he went out and killed thirty men just for their clothes.

In chapter **15**, we see this several times. **vs 3** - Samson said, *"This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines.* **vs 7** - Samson said *"Since you acted like this I won't stop until I get my revenge on you."* Then he made the typical excuse of a weak person in **vs 11** - *He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me."*

Resentment and getting even is a waste of time.

Resentment always hurts you more than it does the person you're angry at.

The fact is, when we get angry and resentful we're wasting our creativity. When you look at Samson's life, you have to admit that this guy really was pretty creative at getting even. **Judges 15:3-5** (nlt)

**Judges 15:14-15** (nlt) That's a pretty creative tool Samson uses!

The second lesson we learn from Samson's life is **Strong people restrain their reactions!**

**Proverbs 29:22** *"A hot tempered man starts fights and gets into all kinds of trouble."*

An uncontrolled temper will get us in trouble.

**Proverbs 29:11** (nlt) *Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.*

### **.... Carelessness will weaken us.**

Samson was a very careless person.

His strength was a gift from God. But he continually misused it and abused it. He was careless. His power came as a result of a commitment he had made as a young boy. He was a miracle baby in the first place. **Judges 13:3-5** (nlt)

So the strength of Samson was not in his hair.

The strength of Samson was in his commitment to live totally for God and his hair represented that commitment.

Samson ignored his vows. He compromised.

Samson's refused to take himself seriously and he refused to take God seriously.

Samson thought everything was a big game. He had a good time.

He was irresponsible. It was like *"How close to the fire can I get and not get burnt?"*

This is seen with his relationship with Delilah in **Judges 16**.

**Judges 16:4-6** (nlt)

Somebody said a man is never weaker than when a woman is telling him how strong he is. **Judges 16:1** (niv)

The problem in Samson's life was he compromised once too often. But he did not know it was happening.

It was tragic what happened. **Judges 16:19-20** (niv)

That is one of the most tragic statements in the Bible. *"He did not know the Lord had left him."*

He'd assumed he'd always be strong.

The lesson is nobody ever plans to be a failure. It just comes on gradually.

The third lesson we learn from Samson's life is **Strong people keep their commitments.**

## Look at the tragic results.

**Judges 16:21**(niv)

The champion of Israel becomes a clown, someone to make fun of. They took his eyes out and he lost everything.

He lost it all. But God never gave up on Samson.

**Judges 16:22** (niv)

The good news about God is that He gives people second chances.

**Judges 16:23-30** (niv)

It was the greatest victory of his life.

Here's a guy who makes it in God's hall of fame (**Hebrews 11**) who was an absolute failure in his life until the last day. God's the God of the second chance!

You may say, *"How could God ever use me?"* If God could use Samson, He can use you. It's a commitment, a recommitment that we need to make.

**I have three questions to ask and we'll close. Think about these.**

- 1. What is out of control in your life?**
- 2. Who are you resentful against?**
- 3. What are you committed to?**