

Lessons from the Life  
Of  
**SAMSON**



“For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.” Judges 13:5

Samson was a unique child of promise, ordained as a Nazarite from the womb, destined to be a deliverer for Israel. But despite the great destiny Samson had ahead of him, he didn't fulfil all he could have for a number of reasons that ultimately cost him heavily.

This series we are studying the life of Samson and pulling out lessons we can learn from his journey. Our prayer is that we go through this study with an open heart and recognize where we may be functioning so we can ask the Holy Spirit to continue to strengthen us and help us course correct based on our alignment with God's agenda for our lives.



## Day 1

### Principles of Life

“Then Manoah prayed to the Lord, and said, “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.” Manoah said, “Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy’s rule of life, and his work?” Judges 13:8, 12

We are introduced to Samson’s parents as a couple who had no children but received an angelic visitation declaring that they would have a son (Judges 13:3). This would have been enough news to generate thanksgiving on their part, but Manoah did two critical things when his wife told him about the visitation, he cried out to God to confirm HOW he should be raised and his assignment.

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord...” Psalms 127:3

Manoah and his wife showed a huge lesson for existing and intending parents on our approach to raising children. The Hebrew word used for heritage in Psalm 127:3 means “portion assigned by God”. Which means if God assigns children to parents, it’s important that parents understand the nature of the assignment. Manoah understood this and asked the angel for the expected child’s rules of life and work: what was his purpose and how should they raise him in accordance with that purpose? This is a question we would do well to ask the Lord regarding our children.

“Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.” Judges 13:4-5

The angel not only gave instructions for the child but also his mother (and father by extension) on how he should be nurtured and raised as a Nazirite (Numbers 6:1-20) which meant there were specific principles that would govern Samson’s life in order to fulfil his assignment. Do we know the principles that are meant to govern our lives and that of our children so we fulfil our assignment? If not let’s ask God for clarity.

**Prayer:** Lord please show me the principles that govern my life and that of my children so we fulfil your assignment.



## Day 2

### God's Intention

"...A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me." His father and mother didn't realize the Lord was at work in this, creating an opportunity to work against the Philistines...' Judges 14:2,4

Having raised Samson as a Nazarite, it would have been a shock and disappointment to his parents that he'd choose a philistine woman as a wife. However, this seeming deviation was part of God's plan for Samson to fulfil his assignment.

'Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them— Joseph, who was sold as a slave.' Psalms 105:17

Not every adverse circumstance is from the enemy, it may be God at work behind the scenes orchestrating an outcome we can't immediately fathom. If it seems strange that God would choose this route to bring Samson to prominence, let's draw a quick comparison with Joseph where we see that the route God had for him included a season of adversity as part of the plan for his life. The journey to fulfilling purpose won't always be linear and neither will it be free from some level of uncertainty. This keeps us humble and close to God as we always need to check with Him what is happening behind the scenes and confirm that we're on the right path.

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine." Isaiah 55:8

God has already told us that His ways are not our ways and He sees the end from the beginning. This means there are some disappointments in our lives that are actually part of our preparation for His divine assignment and even the things the enemy may have orchestrated, God is able to work out for our good. Are there situations we're experiencing right now that don't seem to make sense? Let's ask God how we should respond and how we can bring Him glory through it.

**Prayer:** Lord I don't always understand what is going on please help me to keep my eyes on You no matter what I experience, I trust that You will work it all out for good.

### Day 3

#### Honoring the Call

“...for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb...” Judges 13:5

'...a Nazirite... must give up wine and other alcoholic drinks...They must never cut their hair throughout the time of their vow... And they must not go near a dead body during the entire period of their vow to the Lord.' Numbers 6:2-3,5-6

Nazarites had strict requirements to abide by because of their dedication to God including not touching alcohol or going near dead things. However, in the process of his wedding feast, Samson went back to the carcass of the lion he killed which he scooped honey out of and killed 30 men for their clothing as payment for the riddle he shared. He also threw a 7-day wedding party where he would have engaged in a lot of drinking (Judges 14).

'lest there be any... profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.' Hebrews 12:16

Profanity in this context speaks of making Godly things 'common' i.e. of little regard. Esau was profane by cheapening his birthright, equating its value to food he would have eaten anyway, likewise Samson cheapened the call on his life. Though ordained by God, he didn't place a premium on his separation as a Nazarite or role as a leader. This led to dire consequences for him later in life and is quite instructive as it tells us that even if we are divinely ordained to do something, there is a role we also must play to ensure we can successfully complete that assignment.

'Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.' Psalms 139:23-24 NLT

Samson's errors may be glaring but if we do a self-check, are we sure there aren't areas of our lives we may have elevated more highly God in our daily living? Let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us identify where we may be doing this without even knowing so He can help us realign.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit please search me and show me where I may be missing it and lead me along the correct path.



## Day 4

### Spirit of Might

'And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he...' Judges 14:6

The media representations of Samson typically depict a heavily muscled man, but we don't see anywhere in the Bible where he is described as such. Rather, before he performed any physical exploit, we see the phrase: "The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him" telling us that Samson's victories were not because of his own strength, but the power of the Holy Spirit upon him.

'The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.' Isaiah 11:2

Because of the nature of Samson's assignment as a leader and deliverer, the Spirit of might enabled him to perform the tremendous supernatural feats needed to subdue the Philistines. Outside of the power of the Holy Spirit, Samson was just a "normal" person. This gives us a glimpse of what is possible when we choose to partner with the Holy Spirit. Whichever combination of the aspects of the Holy Spirit, operates in our lives will distinguish us significantly in that area.

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ' John 14:12,16

'Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God...' I Corinthians 6:19

In the Old Testament there are several illustrations of the Holy Spirit coming upon individuals for exploits. We see how the Hebrew boys in Babylon had exceptional learning abilities; Joseph's counsel to Pharaoh positioned Egypt accordingly for a season of drought; Solomon's exceptional wisdom and understanding distinguished him from other kings at his time and so many others. In the New Testament Jesus showed us through the example of His life that with the Holy Spirit resident within us, we can embody all aspects of Him and really be unstoppable. This is why He could confidently say that we would do greater works than Him.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, please fill me with all the fullness of You and express Yourself fully in every area of my life.



## Day 5

### The Delilah Factor

“Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek.” Judges 16:4

Samson was a Nazarite judge a time when the Philistines ruled over Israel. Looking at his life in Judges 14-16, he didn't appear to take his Nazarite separation too seriously and was comfortable involving himself with Philistine women, even though he was exposing himself to danger by doing so as their men were always looking for a way to capture him. If we look at ourselves as Samson, the principles of God as the Nazarite separation and the women he desired as the things that we know are wrong but we keep going back to, it may help us see our lives in a different context. Many times we go back to things we shouldn't and may even have said to ourselves that we won't go back to because truthfully, we still enjoy them. The danger is that constantly going back to something gives that thing power over us and may get to the point that we can no longer resist.

“Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.” Romans 6:12, 16 NLT

“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,” Hebrews 12:1

We may ask ourselves why Samson kept going back to Delilah when she had shown clearly that she wasn't trustworthy. It's likely that at this point Samson had veered so far away from God that he was now unable to resist Delilah even though he knew what she was doing was dangerous to him. The same way when a believer chooses to constantly engage in activities we shouldn't, we give those activities power over us. We can't choose sin and choose God at the same time; something has to give for the other. And it's what we give ourselves to that will dominate us.

**Prayer:** Lord strengthen me as I choose to walk away from the weights and sins that hold me back. help me to always choose what pleases You.

## Day 6

### The Holy Spirit

“And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!”... But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.” Judges 16:20 NKJV

There’s an idiom that says, “the last straw that broke the camel’s back”, speaking to a collective of little actions that cumulatively end up in a large reaction. Samson’s hair was a physical representation of his consecration to God, but uncut hair was just one of the things that was required of a Nazarite. From the record of his life, Samson had shown little regard for the Nazarite requirements and cutting his hair was essentially the last straw. What he didn’t realize was that his disregard had been weakening him spiritually to the point that the only thing left indicating he was a Nazarite was his hair.

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...” Ephesians 4:30

“Do not quench the Spirit.” I Thessalonians 5:19

The Holy Spirit had been withdrawing from Samson, but he didn’t know because his physical strength was still available to him. By the time his hair was cut the Spirit had left him, so he was just like any other person. When we consistently do what we shouldn’t and don’t take the Holy Spirit’s correction, we grieve Him. Each action we take that grieves the Holy Spirit reduces His impact in our lives until the point at which we finally quench His power in us. It doesn’t mean the Holy Spirit lacks power, but He only moves in us to the extent that we give Him room to do so.

The dangerous thing about grieving the Spirit is that He still functions in our lives so we may think everything is okay. If an oven is heated to a high temperature and the power is cut off, there’ll still be some residual heat available. However as time goes on, if the power source isn’t reconnected, the oven will eventually become cold. That’s how we can live on residual connection, not knowing until something drastic happens that we’ve been grieving the Holy Spirit all along and finally quenched Him in our lives. This calls for a constant audit on our part.

**Prayer:** “Lord search my heart and point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.” (Psalms 139:23-24 NLT)



## Day 7 Redemption

With all his promise and potential, Samson could have made a huge difference in Israel as a judge, but he took his call and the grace upon his life for granted; lapses in judgement and character cost him dearly and he ended up paying with his life. There are aspects of his life we will do well not to replicate, but ultimately Samson's story is one of redemption.

'Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.' Judges 16:21-22

The Philistines humiliated Samson, making someone who was feared and able to single handedly kill thousands a blind mill grinder. We don't know how long exactly Samson was imprisoned, but it was long enough for him to have a period of personal reflection on his life and retrace his steps back to God. We know this because the Bible took note that his hair began to grow again. Samson's hair was a physical representation of the presence of the Lord with him and so we can surmise that he found his way back to God.

'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.' Psalms 51:17

'Then Samson called to the Lord, saying, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"' Judges 16:28

Previously Samson's mindset was "I will get out of this", but his prayer showed that for the first time he acknowledged that his strength wasn't his own but that it came from God and he was totally dependent on God to help him. God will never despise a broken heart and true repentance which comes as a result, He showed Samson mercy and heard his prayer. The same way no matter how far we have gone from God, when we genuinely return to Him, He welcomes us with open arms. Yes there will be consequences for our actions, but God will never condemn us and He works with us to make something good come out of our experience.

**Prayer:** Lord thank You for your mercy and Your constant willingness to redeem me.



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