



**Judges 16:17-20** So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”<sup>18</sup> When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands.<sup>19</sup> Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.<sup>20</sup> Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

**Hebrews 11:32-34** And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, **Samson**, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets,<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,<sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; **whose weakness was turned to strength**; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

## **SAMSON TEACHES US WITH GOD FAILURE IS NEVER FINAL**

### **I. THE RESULT OF SAMSON’S SIN**

**Judges 16:21** Then the Philistines seized him, **gouged out his eyes** and took him down to Gaza. **Binding him** with bronze shackles, they **set him to grinding** in the prison.

*“The price of sin is always blinding, binding, and grinding.”*

**Galatians 6:7-9** Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows.**<sup>8</sup> The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.<sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

### **II. THE RESTORATION OF SAMSON’S HEART**

**Judges 16:22** But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## TWO RESPONSES TO FAILURE

### 1. THE NATURAL RESPONSE IS REMORSE

Sometimes remorse will turn INWARD and we take it out on ourselves

Sometimes remorse will turn OUTWARD and we take it out on others

Sometimes remorse will turn UPWARD and we take it out on God

### 2. THE BETTER RESPONSE IS REPENTANCE

Remorse is looking BACKWARD

Repentance is looking FORWARD

## III. THE RIDICULE OF SAMSON'S ENEMIES

**Judges 16:23-25a** Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." <sup>24</sup> When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land, the one who laid waste to our land and multiplied our slain." <sup>25</sup> While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

## IV. THE RETURN OF SAMSON'S STRENGTH

**Judges 16:25b-30** When they stood him among the pillars, <sup>26</sup> Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them." <sup>27</sup> Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. <sup>28</sup> Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." <sup>29</sup> Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, <sup>30</sup> Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it.

**Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.**

**The level of your STRENGTH is proportional to the level of your SURRENDER**

**Hebrews 11:32-34** And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson...**whose weakness was turned to strength**; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

**Judges 16:31** Then his brothers and his father's whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.

**What pillars do you need to push down in your life?**