



Judges 15:19-20 Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi.
²⁰ **Samson led Israel for twenty years** in the days of the Philistines.

SAMSON THOUGHT HE COULD HANDLE SIN AND WIN

MISTAKES THAT MAKE A STRONG MAN WEAK

1. SAMSON TRIED TO KEEP HIS SIN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Judges 16:1-2 **One day** Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. ²The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, "At dawn we'll kill him."

2. SAMSON BELIEVED HE COULD CONTROL HIS SIN

Judges 16:3 But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up...took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

Genesis 6:3 The Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever."

3. SAMSON RATIONALIZED THE SAME OLD SIN

Judges 16:4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

Proverbs 25:28 Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.

Judges 16:5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, “See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver.”

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

4. SAMSON UNDERESTIMATED THE SEDUCTIVE POWER OF SIN

Judges 16:6 So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued.”

Judges 16:15-16 Then Delilah pouted, “How can you tell me, ‘I love you,’ when you don’t share your secrets with me? You’ve made fun of me three times now, and you still haven’t told me what makes you so strong!” ¹⁶ She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it.

❖ **He compromised his convictions**

❖ **He lusted away his logic**

❖ **He toyed with temptation**

1 Corinthians 6:18 **Flee** from sexual immorality.

2 Timothy 2:22 **Flee** the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Proverbs 4:14-15 **Do not set foot on the path** of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. ¹⁵ **Avoid it**, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way.

5. SAMSON ASSUMED HIS SIN WOULDN'T COST HIM EVERYTHING

Judges 16:20-21 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.** 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. ²² But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.