

Becoming a Stronger Person

GOD Wants to Use Ordinary You — Part 4

Hebrews 11:32, Judges 13-15

"The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him . . ."

— Judges 13:24

1. _____ WEAKENS YOUR LIFE.

"Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman.² When he returned, he said to his father and mother, 'I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife.'"

— Judges 14:1-2

A Weak Person's Excuse: "Just this once! It's a _____ thing.

"His father and mother replied, 'Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?'"
But Samson said to his father, 'Get her for me. She's the right one for me.'"

— Judges 14:3

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."

— Galatians 6:7-8

LESSON #1: Strong People _____ Their Desires.

"I will not let anything master me."

— 1 Corinthians 6:12

"Anyone who lacks self control is like a city whose walls are broken down."

— Proverbs 25:28

2. _____ WEAKENS YOUR LIFE.

"This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines . . . Since you acted like this I won't stop until I get my revenge on you. . . . He answered, 'I merely did to them what they did to me.'"

— Judges 15:3,7,11

"Samson said to them, 'This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them.'⁴ So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails,⁵ lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves."

— Judges 15:3-5

"Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men."

— Judges 15:15

A Weak Person's Excuse: "They hurt me first."

LESSON #2: Strong People _____ their reactions.

"A hot tempered man starts fights and gets into all kinds of trouble."

— Proverbs 29:22

"It is better to be slow tempered than to be famous and to have self control than to control an army."

— Proverbs 16:32

"A fool gives full vent to his anger. But a man of understanding [a wise man] controls himself."

— Proverbs 29:11

3. _____ WEAKENS YOUR LIFE.

“The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, ‘You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son.’⁴ Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean.⁵ You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”
— Judges 13:3-5

“Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.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.’”
— Judges 16:4-6

“With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.¹⁷ So he told her everything.”
— Judges 16:16-17a

“After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.²⁰ 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.”
— Judges 16:19-20

A Weak Person’s Excuse: “It’ll be different with me.”

LESSON #3: Strong People _____ their commitments.

“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 grain in the prison..”
— Judges 16:21

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

3 Questions:

What is out of control in your life?

Who are you resentful against?

What are you committed to?

Memory Verse

“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.”
— 2 Chronicles 16:9

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO...

- Memorize 2 Chronicles 16:9 this week.
- With God’s help to discipline _____ area of my life.
- Release the bitterness I have for _____.
- Repent of my broken commitments to God and others.