

"3 Great Lessons From The World's Strongest Man"

"The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson and he grew. And the Lord blessed him." Judges 13:24

3 CHARACTERISTICS THAT WILL WEAKEN YOUR LIFE

1. **SELF INDULGENCE WEAKENS YOUR LIFE** (Judges 14:1-20)

"Samson. . . saw a young Philistine woman. . . he said to his father and mother, 'I've seen a Philistine woman in Timnah. Now get her for me as a wife.' His father and mother replied, 'Isn't there an acceptable woman among your own relatives, our own people?' . . . But Samson said to his father, 'Get her for me. She's the right one for me.'" Judges 14:1-3

A weak person's excuse: "Just this once. It's such a small thing!"

"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." Gal. 6:7-8 (NLT)

Lesson: Strong people discipline their desires.

"I will not let anything master me." 1 Cor. 6:12"

"Anyone who lacks self control is like a city whose walls are broken down." Prov. 25:28

2. **BITTERNESS WEAKENS YOUR LIFE** (Judges 15:1-17)

"Samson said to them, 'This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them.'" Judges 15:3 (NIV)

"Samson said to them, 'Since you've acted like this, I won't stop until I get my revenge on you.'" Judges 15:7 (NIV)

He answered, "I merely did to them what they did to me." Judges 15:11(NIV)

A weak person's excuse: "They hurt me first!"

"Samson said, 'This time I cannot be blamed. . . ' He went out and caught three hundred foxes. . . tied their tails together. . . fastened a torch to each pair of tails. . . lit the torches and let the foxes run through the fields of the Philistines. He burned all their grain. . . He also destroyed their grapevines and olive trees." Judges 15:3-5 (NLT)

"Then he picked up a donkey's jawbone that was lying on the ground and killed a thousand Philistines with it." Judges 15:15 (NLT)

Strong people restrain their reactions

"A fool gives full vent to his anger. But a man of understanding [a wise man] controls himself." Prov. 29:11

3. **CARELESSNESS WEAKENS YOUR LIFE** (Judges 16:1-20)

"So day after day she nagged him until he couldn't stand it any longer." Judges 16:6 (NLT)

"Then she cried out, 'Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!' When he woke up, he thought, 'I will do as before and shake myself free.' But he didn't realize the LORD had left him." Judges 16:20 (NLT)

The weak person's excuse: "It will be different for me."

Strong people keep their commitments

THE TRAGIC RESULTS:

"So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and made to grind grain in the prison." Judges 16:21 (NLT)

SAMSON'S SECOND CHANCE:

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

What is out of control in your life? Who are you resentful against?

What are you committed to?