



***KNOCKED DOWN BY
TEMPTATION***
July 17, 2016

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. - 1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT

SAMSON - THE SMACKDOWN OF TEMPTATION

(For context see Judges 13-16 & Numbers 6)

HE DID NOT...

1. COUNTERACT HIS NATURAL FOCUS

One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. When he returned home, he told his father and mother, "A young Philistine woman in Timnah caught my eye. I want to marry her. Get her for me." - Judges 14:1-2 NLT

James 1:14

2. SCREEN HIS CLOSE COMPANIONS

As his father was making final arrangements for the marriage, Samson threw a party at Timnah, as was the custom for elite young men. When the bride's parents saw him, they selected thirty young men from the town to be his companions. - Judges 14:10-11 NLT

Proverbs 16:29; 4:14; 1 Corinthians 15:33

3. GUARD HIS PURPOSEFUL CALLING

Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. "My hair has never been cut," he confessed, "for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else." - Judges 16:17 NLT

Proverbs 6:26 NKJV

4. REALIZE SIN'S TRAGIC ENDING

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

*1 Corinthians 10:12; Psalm 90:12; Psalm 39:4;
Deuteronomy 32:29; Isaiah 47:7; Lamentations 1:9*

- **Sin Blinds**
- **Sin Binds**
- **Sin Grinds**

DAVID - HOW TO COME BACK FROM MORAL FAILURE

(For context see 2 Samuel 11-12)

I NEED...

1. FRIENDS TO KEEP ME ACCOUNTABLE

For the choir director: A psalm of David, regarding the time Nathan the prophet came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- Psalm 51 (heading) NLT

2. REPENTANCE TO TURN ME AROUND

Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. - Psalm 51:2-4 NLT

- **Mind - God-oriented Sorrow**
- **Will - Radical Responsibility**
- **Emotions - Deep Hatred For My Sin Not For Myself**

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 NLT

3. GRACE TO GIVE ME HOPE

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. - Psalm 51:1 NLT

I WILL GET BACK UP BY...

- Memorizing *1 Corinthians 10:13*.
- Realizing that giving into temptation will always knock me down.
- Living in true repentance with my mind, will, and emotions.
- Giving my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

WALK THE TALK *A Growth Group Guide*

1. Why do you think it is so hard to stand up against temptation, and what is the best defense in winning the battle against it?
2. How does Samson's story resonate with you? What do you wish you had that he enjoyed? Why isn't that enough to truly be successful?
3. What redeeming value does Samson's story have for us? Do you see him as a tragedy or a triumph in the end? Explain.
4. Read 2 Samuel 11-12 to yourself and be prepared to answer these questions in group:
 - a. How was David's story like Samson? How was it different?
 - b. Why do you think David is seen by most as a better example of forgiveness and reconciliation than Samson? What makes the difference?
5. Read Psalm 32 and 51 to yourself and prepare to answer these questions in group:
 - a. What does true repentance look like to you? What are its character traits?
 - b. Which verse within these two Psalms really spoke to you? Why?