

# *a deeper dive*

INTO YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE STORIES

## 9 – You [God] Say – Samson the Nazarite

*So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.*

**1 Corinthians 15:58 NLT**

Given the reality of the resurrection and the life to come, we should live our lives in a certain way. We should live our lives in such a way that we will inherit everything that the life to come has for us. We should not say with the foolish "Let's feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!" because there is a life beyond the present one (1 Corinthians 15:32).

How should we live our lives, given what is to come?

### We are to be strong and immovable

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That is, we should never give up our faith in Jesus Christ and our walk with Him.

There will be times in our life that will test our faith and tempt us to give up or give in.

Paul says elsewhere, "*Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*" (Ephesians 6:10)

For a greater understanding let's take a look at a familiar story in the Old Testament about one of the judges of Israel – Samson.

### **SAMSON WAS STRONG AND VICTORIOUS, BUT HE WAS NOT IMMOVABLE.**

He is one of the most recognizable of the judges who ruled over Israel before the time of the kings.

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Samson was also a Nazarite (a miracle child to an infertile family) dedicated to the Lord's service.

### **Judges 13:3-5, 24-25a NIV**

*<sup>3</sup>The angel of the LORD appeared to [Samson's mother] and said, "You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son. <sup>4</sup>Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. <sup>5</sup>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."*

*"<sup>24</sup>The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the LORD blessed him, <sup>25</sup>and the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him..."*

Those who took the Nazarite vow could not drink anything alcoholic, cut their hair, or go near anything unclean, such as a corpse (also ref. [Numbers 6:3-7](#)).

In its ordinary form the Nazarite's vow lasted only thirty, and at most one hundred, days.

Scriptures mention only three who were Nazarites for life, Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist ( [Judges 13:4](#) [Judges 13:5](#) ; [1 Samuel 1:11](#) ; [Luke 1:15](#) ).

Also, the Apostle Paul, for some reason took the Nazarite vow ([Acts 18:18](#)) probably during his work at Corinth, and again he took the vow during Pentecost (Acts 21:23-26).

### **SAMSON WAS VIOLENT AND PROUD.**

A decline of morality occurs from the start of the judges to the finish (except for Samuel, the last judge).

Samson was no exception.

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## 1. He ignores the rules of his Nazarite vows.

He eats honeycomb out of the carcass of a dead lion he slew ([Judges 14:9](#)).

He attends a wedding feast, where alcohol is present. Although the text does not indicate whether or not he drank, this article says he still sinned during that occasion when he kills 30 Philistines when his wife, Timnah, tricks him out of a wager ([Judges 14](#)). Whether killing them came from a sound mind or a mind under the influence of alcohol, he sinned.

## 2. Later on, his wife cuts his hair, which causes him to lose his great [strength](#) he'd been renowned for ([Judges 16:20](#)).

## 3. As a violent, vengeful judge, he ties the tails of 300 foxes together, fastens ablaze torches to them, and sets them loose in Philistine fields ([Judges 15:4-5](#)).

When the Philistines retaliate and burn Samson's wife and father in law, he attacks them viciously and kills many of them ([Judges 15:7](#)).

Later, he kills a thousand men with a donkey's jawbone ([Judges 15:16](#)).

Samson led the Israelites as Judge for 20 years against the Philistines.

## Sin has consequences.

For Samson, it came in the form of Delilah, a Philistine woman whom Samson fell in [love](#) with.

The Philistines used this to their advantage and bribed her with 1,100 shekels (about three years' worth of wages) to divulge the secret to Samson's strength so they can overcome him ([Judges 16:5](#)).

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After a great deal of trial and error, Delilah procures the source of his strength, his hair, and cuts it. Then the Philistines blind the now weakened Samson and take him captive.

Samson Cried Out to God at the End of His Life.

Humiliated and now a slave to a Philistine grinding grain, Samson cries out to the Lord ([Judges 16:28](#)). He prays for strength one last time when the Philistines call him out to entertain them at their temple.

Placing both hands on pillars supporting the temple, he pushes the two supporting ones apart and kills himself and thousands of Philistines in the process.

## What Can We Learn from Samson?

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Although the story ends sadly with Samson's death, we can derive several applications from his life.

### **1. We cannot abuse any gifts God has given us.**

God gifted Samson with incredible strength, but he often abused it, using the might to show off, rather than bring glory to God. He learns the hard way that the Lord can give and take away gifts in a moment's notice.

### **2. Sin leads to consequences.**

Samson didn't see the immediate payout for some of his sin until much later, but it tends to catch us at the worst moments. When we feel like acting on impulse, like he had, we need to remind ourselves of the truth of Scriptures. We will encounter many Delilah's in this world who will try to find our greatest weakness and exploit it.

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## 3. Even at our lowest, God can still use us.

Derived of all strength and humiliated beyond measure, God returns Samson his strength for one last showdown. Although Samson dies in the process, he ends up killing more of Israel's enemies than he ever had during his boastful, revengeful days.

## Work enthusiastically for the Lord

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We should always "work enthusiastically for the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Since we have become citizens of the kingdom over which Jesus Christ reigns, we should be responsible with our gifts and our calling to advance and enhance the kingdom.

In every area of life, we should do the will of God and fulfill the callings we have.

And we should do all this enthusiastically, not half-heartedly.

We should do all this enthusiastically because "nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

## Nothing we do for the Lord is ever useless

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That is, nothing we do for the Lord is ever meaningless work without purpose or reward.

The work we do for the Lord advances and enhances the kingdom.

It simply makes life better. As a bonus, it also stores up treasures in heaven for us that we will receive when the next life commences (Matthew 6:20).

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There will be a resurrection of the body and there will be a life to come.

If you keep this in mind, it will help you to be strong, immovable, and enthusiastic.

Even in your failures, God says you are strong and immovable through Jesus Christ!

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## **YOU SAY, by Lauren Daigle**

*The only thing that matters now is everything You think of me*

*In You I find my worth, in You I find my identity*

*You say I am loved when I can't feel a thing*

*You say I am strong when I think I am weak*

*And you say I am held when I am falling short*

*When I don't belong, oh You say I am Yours*

*And I believe*

*What You say of me*

*Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at Your feet*

*You have every failure, God, You have every victory*

*And I believe*

*What You say of me*