

Courageous Faith

Part 8—Facing Your Weaknesses, Making Them Your Strengths

1 Corinthians 10:13a—¹³No temptation has seized you except what is common to man . . . (NIV)

James 1:14—¹⁴Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. (NLT)

How do you deal with your temptations?

1. A Biblical Parallel.

- Samson's major weakness became evident: he had an eye for the _____

Judges 14:2—²When 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." (NIV)

Judges 14:3—³His father and mother objected. "Isn't there even one woman in our tribe or among all the Israelites you could marry?" they asked. "Why must you go to the pagan Philistines to find a wife?" But Samson told his father, "Get her for me! She looks good to me." (NLT)

- It's important to remember, whenever you put _____ ahead of _____, you're headed for _____

Judges 14:6—⁶The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. (NIV)

Judges 14:14—¹⁴Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet. (NIV)

Judges 14:16-17—¹⁶Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer." "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" ¹⁷She cried the whole seven days of the feast. So, on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people. (NIV)

Judges 14:18b-20—¹⁸ . . . "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle." ¹⁹Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father's house. ²⁰And Samson's wife was given to the friend who had attended him at his wedding. (NIV)

Judges 16:3—³Samson was in bed with the woman until midnight. Then he got up, seized the doors of the city gate and the two gateposts, bolts and all, hefted them on his shoulder, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. (MSG)

- The ultimate tragedy in Samson's life was that he never learned his _____ from the first time

2. Dealing with Temptation.

- Samson _____ to deal with temptation and paid a terrible price for it

1 Corinthians 10:13—¹³No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (NIV)

- Practical steps for dealing with temptation
 - Take a good look at _____
 - Admit you have a _____
 - Believe that God can make a _____ in your life
 - Make a total _____
 - Take the “_____”

Action Step . . .

- Face your weaknesses
- Trust God to provide the way of escape