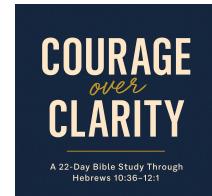


DAY 16 — Samson: God Uses the Flawed

Aim of Today's Study



To see that Samson's inclusion in Hebrews 11 reminds us courageous faith is not defined by a flawless life, but by a heart that ultimately turns back to God in dependence—learning that real strength comes from surrender, not self-control.

Anchor Passage

Hebrews 11:32

Samson is named among the faithful—not because his life was clean, but because his final posture was faith.

Study Passages

- **Judges 13–16** — Samson's calling, compromise, collapse, and final surrender
- **Judges 16:28–30** — Samson's prayer of dependence
- **2 Timothy 2:13** — God's faithfulness even when we fail
- **2 Corinthians 12:9–10** — Strength made perfect in weakness

Summary for the Day

Samson is one of the most surprising names in Hebrews 11. We often remember him for supernatural strength—and tragic failure. He was set apart by God and empowered by the Spirit, yet he repeatedly followed his impulses, ignored wisdom, and drifted toward what felt right instead of what honored God.

Samson was physically strong but spiritually weak. He carried God-given gifts, but treated them like they were his own—until compromise cost him everything. But Hebrews 11 isn't a list of perfect people. It's a list of people who trusted God when it mattered most.

Samson belongs in Hebrews 11 because at the end—when his strength, sight, and pride were gone—he finally surrendered and prayed, “Sovereign Lord, remember me... strengthen me once more” (Judges 16:28). That prayer was the turning point. His final act wasn't about showing off—it was about dependence.

Samson reminds us: God can still work through flawed people who return to Him. Courage over clarity doesn't always look impressive—sometimes it looks like simply saying, “God, I need You.”

Life Application: Strength That Starts With Surrender

Our world tells us strength means control:

- control your image
- control your outcomes
- control your emotions
- control your future

But Samson shows us that self-reliance is often the illusion of strength. Sometimes God allows what we relied on to be shaken—not to destroy us, but to bring us back to the only foundation that holds. If you've failed, don't confuse regret with disqualification. Courage isn't pretending you're fine. Courage is turning back to God when you're not. Courage comes from living life in the hands of God.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you been relying on your own strength or control instead of God's presence and power?
2. What pattern in Samson's story feels familiar—impulse, compromise, pride, or spiritual drift?
3. What does it look like for you to “return” to God today instead of hiding in shame?
4. Samson's final prayer was simple dependence. What honest prayer do you need to pray right now?
5. How might God use your weakness—not as the end of your story, but as the place surrender begins?

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You that You don't only use perfect people. Teach me to return to You quickly when I drift. Replace my self-reliance with surrender, and let my weakness become a place where Your strength is seen. Give me courage to trust You again today. Amen.