



House of Grace Fellowship

SUNDAY WORD

Strong But Struggling:

THE GRACE THAT LIFTS YOU AGAIN

Judges 13-16

SAMSON



Judges 13:5

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

Judges 13:5

2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth.

3 The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son.

Judges 13:5

4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean.

Judges 13:5

5 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.”

Judges 13:24

24 The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. ***He grew and the Lord blessed him,*** 25 and ***the Spirit of the Lord*** began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

NAZIRITE

Nazirite comes from the word

NAZIR

meaning **consecrated or set apart.**

Three Restrictions of a Nazirite

1. They cannot go near or touch any dead body
2. They cannot drink alcohol.
3. They cannot cut their hair..

This vow symbolized consecration, holiness, and separation unto God.

1. Your Calling Starts Before Your Struggle

Samson was set apart before he was strong—your purpose exists even when you feel weak.

Truths:

- Your calling started before your failures.
- God marked you before you made mistakes.
- Grace found you before temptation did.
- Before your weakness existed, your purpose did.

2. Small Compromises Lead to Big Collapses

Samson didn't fall in one moment;
his unguarded desires slowly dismantled his strength.

How Samson broke his
Nazarite vow:

a. He pursued a Philistine woman
from Timnah

(against God's command to stay consecrated and separate)

Judges 14:1-2

One day when Samson was in Timnah, one of the Philistine women caught his eye. 2 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 14:3

His 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.”

b. He walked through the vineyards

(he drew near the grapevine—what he was
supposed to avoid)

Judges 14:5

5 Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the **vineyards** of Timnah, suddenly **a young lion came roaring toward him**. 6 The **Spirit of the Lord** came powerfully upon him 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. 7 Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.

c. He touched the dead lion

He scooped honey out of the carcass

(breaking the vow against touching anything dead)

Judges 14:8-9

8 Some time later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass, and in it he saw a swarm of bees and some honey. 9 He scooped out the honey with his hands and ate as he went along. When he rejoined his parents, he gave them some, and they too ate it. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey from the lion's carcass.

d. He drank wine during the feast

He celebrated with 30 Philistine men
(breaking the vow of avoiding wine)

Judges 14:10-11

10 Now his father went down to see the woman. And there Samson held a feast, as was customary for young men.

11 When the people saw him, they chose thirty men to be his companions.

Proverbs 18:1

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;
he breaks out against all sound judgment.

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Is Drinking a Sin?

Drinking is not a sin,
but drunkenness is a sin.

Ephesians 5:18

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to
debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

The Bible warns that wine
can deceive and destroy.

Proverbs 20:1

“Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler;
whoever is led astray by them is not wise.”

Wine can become like poison
when it consumes you.

Proverbs 23:29–32

“Who has woe? Who has sorrow?
Who has strife? Who has complaints?
Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?
Those who linger over wine...
In the end it bites like a snake
and poisons like a viper.”

Your body is God's temple.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

“Therefore honor God with your body.”

Believers must not be mastered by anything.

1 Corinthians 6:12

“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.

What About Being a Good Example?

Romans 14:21

“It is better not to.. drink wine..
if it causes your brother or sister to fall.”

What About Being a Good Example?

1 Corinthians 8:9

But you must be careful so that your freedom
does not cause others with a weaker
conscience to stumble.

What About Being a Good Example?

Romans 13:13–14

“Do not let wine be your guide, do not be led astray, ignoring the will of the Lord. Seek His Spirit and walk closely with Him.” –

5. He connected with Delilah, who was
secretly paid to betray him

Delilah was offered 1,100 pieces of silver by each Philistine
leader to spy on Samson, seduce him, and discover the
secret of his strength.

Judges 16:4-5

4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. 5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels[[a](#)] of silver."



Judges 17:17

17 So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”

Judges 17:19

19 After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him.[c](#) And his strength left him.

Truths:

- The enemy does not destroy you suddenly;
he destroys you gradually.

3. Losing Vision Is Worse Than Losing

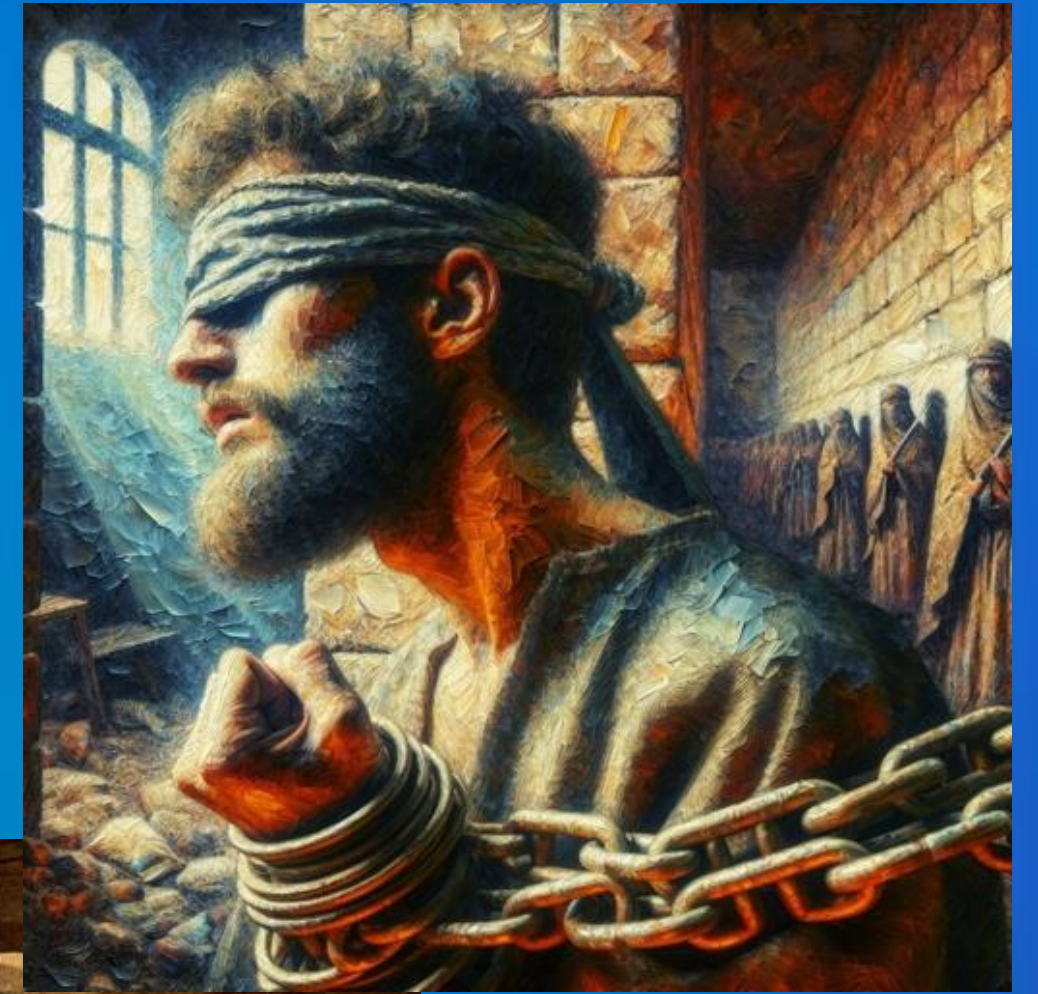
The enemy attacks your sight before your strength
—clarity is greater than capability.

Judges 17:21

21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

They did three things:

1. They gouged out his eyes
2. They bound him with bronze chains
3. They made him grind grain in prison



Truths:

- Before the enemy can bind your hands, he tries to blind your vision.
- If the enemy can blind your vision, you will grind in circles like Samson—strong, but directionless.

When you lose spiritual sight:

- You stop seeing who God called you to be
- You stop seeing your purpose
- You start repeating cycles (like Samson grinding in circles)

4. Grace Restores What Choices Ruined

Even after breaking the vow,
“Samson’s hair began to grow again”
—God rebuilds what we break.

Judges 16:22

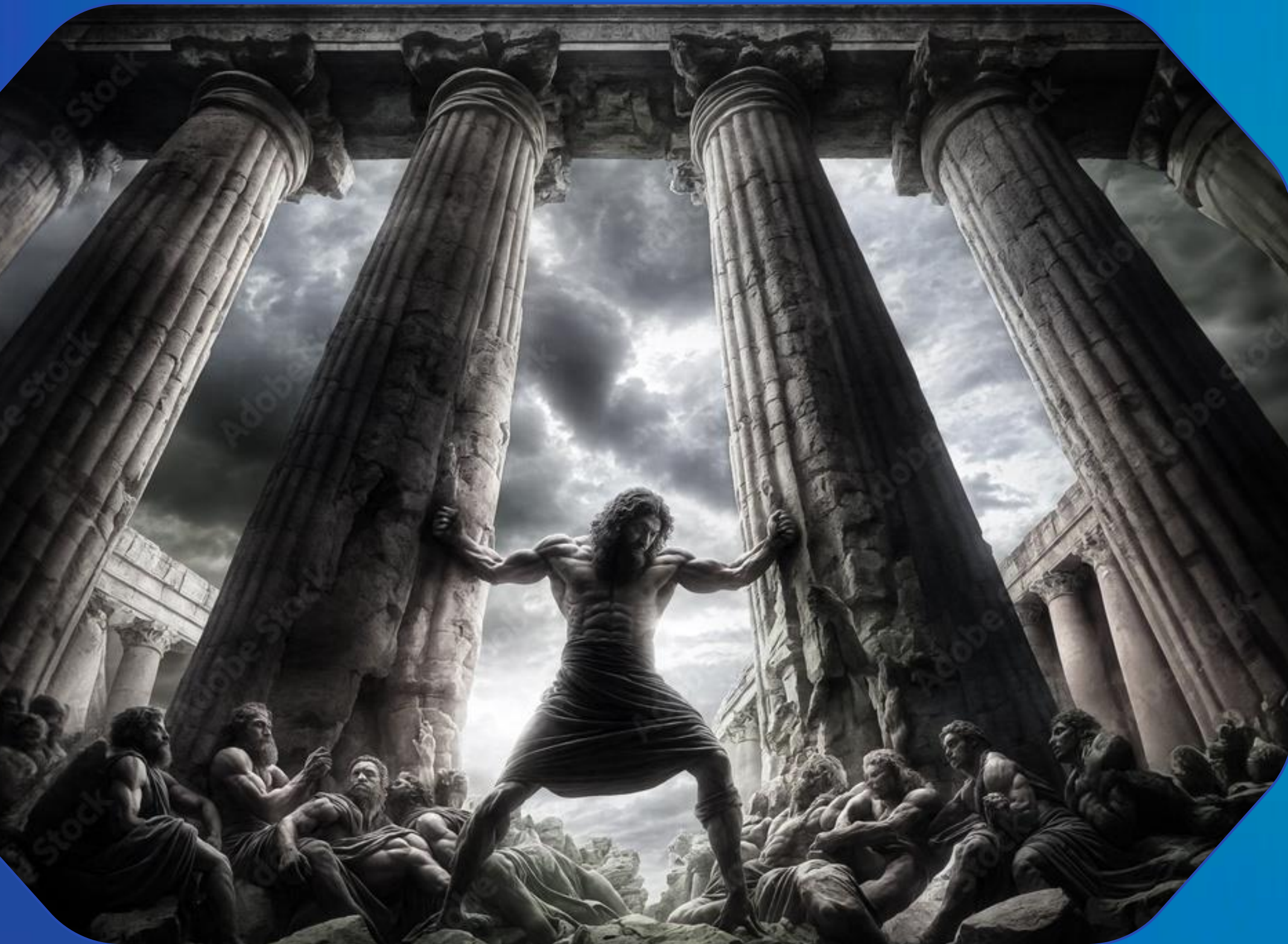
“But the hair on his head began to grow again...”

5. God Can Turn Your Breakdown Into Your Breakthrough

Samson's greatest victory came after his greatest failure—
God writes comebacks from collapsed places.

Judges 16:28–30

28 Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” 29 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other



30 Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

Truths:

- God can use you more after your restoration than He ever did before your failure.

Application:

- Your comeback can be stronger than your fall.
- Your future can be brighter than your past.
- Your testimony can be greater than your mistake.
- Your calling doesn't end where your weakness began.

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