



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Samson's Cry

Focus Verses: Judges 15:18-19 - ¹⁸And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised? ¹⁹But God clave an hollow place that was in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which is in Lehi unto this day.

Lesson Text: Judges 15:1-20

Truth About God: God wants us to realize our need for Him.

Truth For My Life: Though God has empowered me with His Spirit, I will still cry out to Him during times of distress.

Of all the judges, Samson alone received God's call before his birth. Despite his unique calling and story, Samson failed to always recognize his need for the Lord. This strong man with weak resolve needed the Lord—whether he realized it or not. The Spirit of the Lord made all the difference. Samson discovered his power when a lion sprang on him as he walked near the vineyards of Timnah. The Spirit of the Lord empowered the unsuspecting young man as he tore the lion apart as if it were a young goat (Judges 14:5-6). He accomplished the amazing feat without a weapon—just his bare hands.

Samson's easy access to the Spirit may have caused him to take the Lord for granted. Neglecting his relationship with God, Samson focused on the burgeoning relationship with a Philistine woman in Timnah whom he planned to marry. Samson challenged the Philistines to a contest of wits and presented a riddle to them: *"Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness"* (Judges 14:14). After a week, they still could not solve the enigma. They threatened to burn Samson's fiancé and her father's house if she did not help them solve his riddle. She informed on him to save herself from the treacherous Philistine. They solved the riddle just before the deadline: *"What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?"* (Judges 14:18). The sweetness of his wedding feast was ruined. Samson owed his enemies the reward for their answer. He killed thirty Philistines to provide the garments for his unfairly lost wager.

Samson consistently found himself needing God's help. When Samson left his wedding feast, his bride's father gave his daughter to the best man because he thought Samson hated her. Samson felt spurned and sought to avenge his hurt on the Philistines for ruining his marriage. Samson caught three hundred foxes, tied their tails together and set their tails on fire. Then he set the fiery foxes loose in the Philistine wheat fields (Judges 15:1-4). In returned they burned his former finance's house to the ground, killing the woman he loved and her father (Judges 15:6). Samson took revenge on the Philistines and fought them at Lehi. Three thousand men of Judah found Samson in the cleft and bound him and handed him over to the Philistines. Samson killed a thousand enemies with a donkey's jawbone.

If life, we often find ourselves in seemingly unfair situations. We might even feel so angry that we wish we could teach people who hurt us a lesson or two. We must quell these desires for vengeance and instead trust in the Lord. Violence is not the answer—no matter how justified we may feel. While the Lord does not empower us to defeat our enemies through physical force like Samson did, we still have authority over our foes. Through prayer and fasting, we are empowered by God and emerge victorious from difficult situations. By reading the Word of God, we discover the power of trusting in the Lord—no matter how bleak our situation seems. God has the power to deliver us even when we feel overpowered by those who oppose us.

We must cry out to the Lord in our times of need. Sometimes we achieve a great spiritual victory only to discover how costly it was for us. We may feel burnout or thirst for rest. Sometimes we make that mistake, assuming we are stronger than we are. But we are never so mighty that we do not need the Almighty. At other times, we fail to call on the Lord because we feel weak and lack the faith that God will answer. We feel shame for sin. Knowing we have neglected our God; we believe we have no right to receive His mercy. Even if we have little faith, we must cry out to God. **No matter our situation, we can always call on the Lord.**