

## 参孙的信心 ----- 士师记 16: 21-30

### Samson's Faith—Judges 16:21-30

#### *Introduction*

- Scripture Reading: Judges 16:21-30, Hebrews 11:32-34, 12:1-2

#### **Judges 16:21-30**

21 Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison. 22 However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it was shaved off. 23 Now the lords of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice, for they said, “Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hands.” 24 When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said, “Our god has given our enemy into our hands, Even the destroyer of our country, Who has slain many of us.” 25 It so happened when they were in high spirits, that they said, “Call for Samson, that he may amuse us.” So they called for Samson from the prison, and he entertained them. And they made him stand between the pillars. 26 Then Samson said to the boy who was holding his hand, “Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them.” 27 Now the house was full of men and women, and all the lords of the Philistines were there. And about 3,000 men and women were on the roof looking on while Samson was amusing them. 28 Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once be avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.” 29 Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and braced himself against them, the one with his right hand and the other with his left. 30 And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” And he bent with all his might so that the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he killed in his life.

- Samson has always been a very special figure among all the characters in the Bible. He possessed immense strength, almost invincible in battle. However, his life was far from godly, marked by gross immorality. As a judge of Israel, he had much military success, defeating enemies single-handedly. Yet, in the end, he was defeated by sexual lust and was captured by the enemies who subjected him to severe humiliation and torture, which ended in his heroic death that killed thousands of enemies. His life was characterized by rebellion, yet he is listed in the Hall of Faith in the Book of Hebrews. May God use today's Scripture to show us Samson's faith and to teach us lessons that we need to learn from his story.

- Outline

1. Background, Samson's failure (21-25)
2. Samson's victory through the Lord (26-30)
3. Samson is not a good role model
4. God's grace seen in Samson's life (Hebrews 11, 12)
5. Words for non-believers and for believers
6. Samson's final perseverance

### **Background, Samson's failure (21-25)**

After Joshua's death, the Israelites no longer faithfully served God; everyone did what was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6). God, however, raised up judges to lead the Israelites against their enemies.

Samson was a particularly unique judge. He possessed immense strength, was valiant in battle, yet lived a life of rebellion, disregarding God's law. In the end, he was captured by enemies, subjected to severe torture, and publicly humiliated.

Nearly all biblical role models had failures and significant setbacks. Not only biblical figures but also many prominent leaders in church history have done reproachable things. Failures of leaders is something we have seen and experienced throughout history.

### **Samson's victory through the Lord (26-30)**

Before his death, Samson called out to God, and God answered his prayer, fulfilling Samson's desires and accomplishing His own purposes through Samson.

Throughout history, God has used exemplary figures with all kinds of failures. They, like us, have had failures, but God never gives up on them—or us.

### **Samson is not a good role model**

Samson's faith was a minimal bottom-line kind of faith, definitely not the kind of faith God requires from His people.

### **God's grace seen in Samson's life (Hebrews 11, 12)**

It is exactly because Samson was "good for nothing" that we get to see more clearly God's love, patience, and forbearance.

## **Words for non-believers and for believers**

To non-believers, you are not Samson; the only difference is belief versus unbelief. If God loved Samson, He also loves you. If God forgave Samson, He will also forgive you, as long as you trust in Him.

To believers, we are not Samson, so we cannot take Samson as a role model. God's command for us is to follow Him wholeheartedly. Moreover, as present-day believers, with the all-sufficient teaching of the whole Bible we have today, we should not live like Samson did.

## **Samson's final perseverance**

1. The faith given by God is extremely precious
2. At least, Samson knew to turn to God in prayer
3. The Book of Hebrews didn't comment on Samson's disobedience
4. Even in the darkest hour, Samson still believed in God
5. The “death-begging” prayer

## **Summary**

2 Peter 3:14,18