

SAMSON

FAMILY DEVOS



The Spirit of the Lord Fell Upon Him

Scripture: Judges 15:9-20

Memory Verse: Isaiah 55:8

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord.”

For My Family:

Isaiah 55:8 tells us that God’s thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways our not our ways. I think the life of Samson sums this verse up nicely. I would never use someone like Samson. Samson was a promise-breaker and a liar, amongst many other serious faults and flaws. He seemed to be actively rejecting what the Lord was trying to do in his life, and yet God used him mightily.

In today’s passage, we see that the Philistines had come up to make war on Israel and specifically against Samson. Unlike Gideon or Deborah, who commanded armies to defeat their enemies, Samson was a one-man wrecking crew. He had already defeated many Philistines single-handedly, causing an army to come up into Judea seeking revenge. The Israelites, scared of fighting against the Philistines, went down to Samson to arrest him and hand him over to the Philistines. Samson submitted to them, allowing himself to be bound, but when he was brought to the Philistine army, the Spirit of the Lord fell upon him, he broke the bonds, and with the jawbone of a donkey he fought and destroyed an army of 1000 Philistine soldiers. Samson, who was very thirsty after his battle, called out to the Lord, who again blessed him by bringing water up from the ground.

God chose to use and empower one of the most unlikely people you could imagine to do His work in the land. Today, God has chosen to use another very unlikely source to empower: the Church. God has chosen all of us to be His hands and feet in the world and do His work. Just like Samson, we make lots of mistakes, and just like Samson, we sometimes choose to do things for our own benefit, and yet God still works through us. Unlike Samson, we do not fight to bring violence against our enemies, and we certainly don’t use the jawbone of a donkey. Instead, we fight to bring life to our neighbors, and the weapon that we use is the Gospel of Jesus Christ found in the Word of God.

When Samson fought against the Philistines, the Lord sustained him with water from the ground. When the Lord uses us, He also sustains us by refreshing us through His Word and comforting us through the Holy Spirit. How amazing that God would choose to use imperfect vessels like Samson, and even you and me, to do His perfect work here on Earth!

Questions for Young Children:

What weapon did Samson use to fight the Philistines?

How many Philistines did Samson fight against?

How did God provide for Samson?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Is it surprising that God would choose to use a flawed man like Samson to do His work? Are there any other people from the Bible that were really flawed that God also used? (Examples: David, Abraham, Peter, Jacob, Jonah, and many more)

Do we have to be perfect to be used by God? Why or why not?

How is the Church a little bit like Samson in this passage?