

# Hebrews 11

## SAMSON

Hebrews 11:32c

### Introduction

Samson was a child devoted to the Lord as a Nazarite (not a Nazarene)—set apart from the womb. He is mostly known for his supernatural strength. The strength of Samson is simply a testimony of the old true saying that God will sufficiently equip you for every task He sets before you to do. By this supernatural strength given to him Samson killed a lion with his hands, 30 Philistines at Ashkelon, and 1000 Philistines

<b>Born</b>	➤ Judges 13:24
<b>Samson's account is Found:</b>	➤ Judges 13-16
<b>Other Places Samson is Mentioned:</b>	➤ Judges 13-16 ➤ Hebrews 11:32
<b>Some points of character:</b>	➤ Nazarite ➤ Strong ➤ Simple ➤ Witty ➤ Bold ➤ Weakness with women
<b>Death</b>	➤ Judges 16:30
<b>Key Verses</b>	➤ Judges 13:24,25 ➤ Judges 15:14,15,18 ➤ Judges 16:28-30

with the jawbone of an ass. He also caught 300 foxes to burn the harvest fields of the Philistines, and carried off the city gates of Gaza all the way to Hebron. Although these achievements are outstanding in many ways, this testifies more of the faithfulness of God than it does the faith of Samson. Therefore, Samson's strength had very little or nothing to do with Samson's faith.

Searching for the element of faith in Samson's life was not an easy one yet interesting. Although there is much detail to focus on in Samson's life, concerning the matter of faith there are three events that stand out as clear examples of faith to follow after. One event was at the beginning of his life concerning his Nazarite vow; the second is the victory over 1000 philistines; the third is the last act of his life when he was brought forth to entertain the Philistines before offering him up as a sacrifice to their god.

Samson was definitely God's man for the task ahead, and God equipped him with all that he needed, especially his immense strength, yet the story of Samson as a whole is not a story that honours and glorifies God in all that was done. Although Samson was God's man, he wasn't necessarily a godly man. When Samson was doing the work and will of God, there was blessing, prosperity, a victory when he was doing what he wanted to do, there shame, vanity, iniquity, and destruction. Yet every time Samson put his hand to the work he was called to do from the beginning, the LORD blessed the work, not for Samson's sake, but for Israel's sake, and for the integrity of His Word. Let's consider now the faith of Samson, and what the LORD would have us to learn.

# **OUTLINE SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE ACCOUNT OF SAMSON**

## **Judges 13:**

- 1 Israel is delivered up to the hands of the Philistines for 40 years
- 2-5 The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and told her that she will conceive and bring forth a child who shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb.
- 6-7 She told her husband what the angel of the LORD told her
- 8 Manoah besought the LORD to send His messenger again
- 9-14 God answered Manoah's prayer and the angel of the LORD appeared again with the same instructions and reiterated them to Manoah
- 15 Manoah sought to make an offering unto the angel of the LORD
- 16 The angel of the LORD directs his desire to make an offering to be unto the LORD
- 17 Manoah asks the angel of the LORD for his name that he may honour him in remembrance
- 18 The angel of the LORD said his name is a secret (cf. Proverbs 30:4)
- 19 Manoah made an offering unto the LORD
- 20 The LORD consumed the offering with a flame and the angel of the LORD also went up in the flame
- 21-23 Manoah realised it an the angel of the LORD and believed that he had seen God
- 24 Samson was born
- 25 The LORD began to use Samson

## **Judges 14:**

- 1-4 Samson wanted to marry a Philistine women
- 5-6 Samson kills the lion
- 7 Samson well pleased with the Philistine woman after talking with her
- 8-9 Samson took honey from the lion's carcase and even gave some to his parents
- 10-11 Samson gets married and has a celebration
- 12-14 Samson tells his riddle to the thirty friends
- 15 The thirty friends threaten and manipulate Samson's new wife to get the answer to the riddle from Samson
- 16 Samson's wife manipulates him for seven days
- 17 Samson gives in to his wife's manipulation and tells her the answer, then she tells the men the answer
- 18 The men gave Samson the answer and Samson knew that they had pressed his wife to get the answer for them
- 19 Samson made surety his friends, killed/judged thirty Philistines, and went home angry.
- 20 Samson's father-in-law gave Samson's new wife to one of his friends

## **Judges 15:**

- 1-2 After a while, Samson sought to visit his wife with a gift, but her father forbad him because he had

given her to Samson's friend, thinking that Samson did not want her anymore, and offers Samson his younger daughter who was fairer than Samson's wife

- 3-5** Samson carries out judgement upon the Philistines by catching 300 foxes and tying one flaming torch between two tails and letting them lose in the harvest fields of the Philistines
- 6** The philistines found out that Samson was the one behind what happened thought that taking vengeance because of what happened with his wife, so the Philistines took Samson's wife and her father and burnt them in an attempt to appease Samson.
- 7** Samson makes it clear that his vengeance will be appeased after justice and judgement has been fulfilled on them, not for any personal offence to him, but for what they've done to Israel
- 8** Samson continued to administer judgment upon the Philistines then went and rested at Etam, located where the tribe of Judah dwelt
- 9** The Philistines set up camp in Judah to prepare to slay Samson
- 10-13** Men of Judah find out what's going on so 3000 of them went to Samson and, with Samson's approval, bound him and brought him to the Philistines.
- 14-17** Samson smote the 1000 Philistine with the jawbone of an ass
- 18-19** Samson thirsted and asked God for water and the LORD granted his request by making it come out of a hollow place of the jawbone in his hand.
- 20** Samson was the judge of Israel for 20years

## **Judges 16:**

- 1** Samson went to Gaza and fornicated with an harlot
- 2** Men of Gaza gather together with the intention to wait for Samson and kill him
- 3** At midnight Samson woke up to leave and ripped of the doors of the gate of the city and carried them approximately 60kms to Hebron
- 4** Samson meets Delilah
- 5** The lords of the Philistines bribed Delilah with 1100 pieces of silver (Approx \$15-20k Oz) to find out the source of Samson's strength
- 6-10a** Delilah's first attempt
- 10b-13a** Delilah's second attempt
- 13b-15** Delilah's third attempt
- 16-17** Delilah prevails, Samson gives in and tells her all his heart
- 18-20** Delilah instantly told the lords of the Philistines
- 21** The Philistines took him, plucked out his eyes, bound him, and imprisoned him
- 22-25** The Philistines gave glory to their god, dagon, and brought Samson out to be entertained by him before offering him as a sacrifice unto dagon
- 26-27** Samson asked the boy who was leading him to set him between the two main pillars holding up the building; and so he did.
- 28-30** Samson cries out to God for the strength he used to have that he may finish God's cause in judging the Philistines completely, and he'll be content also to die in the process. The LORD grants Samson's request, the philistines were judged and Samson died.
- 31** Samson's brethren found him, brought him back home and buried him with his father.

In this lesson concerning the faith of Samson we will look at three things:

1. A **C**onsecrated **F**aith – Judges 13 – *Samson committed himself to the LORD*
2. A **C**onquering **F**aith – Judges 15 – *Samson claimed the victory from the LORD*
3. A **C**ommendable **F**aith – Judges 16 – *Samson called on the LORD believing*

**Memory verse:** (Hebrews 11:33) *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

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## 1. A **C**ONSECRATED **F**AITH

### I) **S**AMSON'S NAZARITE VOW

- a. Samson was set apart from his mother's womb to be a Nazarite

Jdg 13:5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

- b. Samson made a personal decision to be a Nazarite

Num 6:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman **shall separate themselves** to vow a vow of a Nazarite, **to separate themselves** unto the LORD:

Num 6:3 He **shall separate himself**...

Num 6:6 All the days that **he separateth himself** unto the LORD he shall come at no dead body.

- c. Samson was blessed by God

Jdg 13:24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

Jdg 13:25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

## II) THE NEW TESTAMENT EQUIVELANCE

### a. We are exhorted to commit our lives to Christ

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Php 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

Php 1:21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

1Pe 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

***“The body is a wonderful servant, but a terrible master”.***  
(John Phillips)

Conclusion: **SAMSON COMMITTED HIMSELF TO THE LORD**

Application: **FAITH COMMITS ONESELF TO THE LORD**

## 2. A CONQUERING FAITH

### SAMSON WON THE VICTORY

#### a) Samson knew the LORD was with him

Jdg 15:14 *And* when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and **the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him**, and the cords that *were* upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.

#### b) Samson defeated the enemy

Jdg 15:15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and **slew a thousand men** therewith.

#### c) Samson gave God the glory

Jdg 15:18a And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, **Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant:...**

#### d) Samson went to God for refreshing

Jdg 15:18b ...and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

Jdg 15:19 But **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.

Conclusion: **SAMSON CLAIMED THE VICTORY FROM THE LORD**

Application: **FAITH CLAIMS THE VICTORY FROM THE LORD**

### 3. A COMMENDABLE FAITH

#### I) SAMSON'S PRAYER OF FAITH

a. Toward the end of his life, Samson called out to God from a repentant heart and of faith

Jdg 16:28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.

b. Samson believed that the Lord would grant his request

Jdg 16:29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

c. The LORD mercifully grants Samson's request

Jdg 16:30a And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with *all his* might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that *were* therein...

d. Samson conquered the enemy

Jdg 16:30b ...So the dead which he slew at his death were more than *they* which he slew in his life.

***“...the last act of his life seems to be a great instance of faith; he did it with calling upon the Lord; he was strengthened for it by the Lord; he acted, not as a private person, but as the judge of Israel; nor did he act from private revenge, but from zeal for God, and love to his country; and [although he was content to die with the philistines (added)] his intention was not to destroy himself, but his enemies.”***

(John Gill)

## II) WE MUST PRAY IN FAITH

### a. God answers when we pray in faith

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Mar 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.**

Mar 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mar 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

### b. God will not answer your prayer if you have unforgiveness or sin in your heart

Mar 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mar 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

### c. God answers when we pray with the right motive

Jas 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

Conclusion: **SAMSON CALLED ON THE LORD BELIEVING**

Application: **FAITH CALLS ON THE LORD BELIEVING**

## SUMMARY

### 1. A CONSECRATED FAITH

Conclusion: **SAMSON COMITTED HIMSELF TO THE LORD**

Application: **FAITH COMMITS OURSELF TO THE LORD**

### 3. A CONQUERING FAITH

Conclusion: **SAMSON CLAIMED THE VICTORY FROM THE LORD**

Application: **FAITH CLAIMS THE VICTORY FROM THE LORD**

### 3. A COMMENDABLE FAITH

Conclusion: **SAMSON CALLED ON THE LORD BELIEVING**

Application: **FAITH CALLS ON THE LORD BELIEVING**

ACCORDING TO THE RECORD OF SAMSON'S ACCOUNT AND  
COMMENDATION OF FAITH:

**FAITH COMMITS ONESELF TO THE LORD  
FAITH CLAIMS THE VICTORY FROM THE LORD  
FAITH CALLS ON THE LORD BELIEVING**