

Judges 16:6-21 The Secret of Your Strength

He has been called the Heman with the She weakness - All brawn and no Brains – stupid, - lust driven – undisciplined !

A) Samson was all of those things – but he is still one of the most fascinating Characters in all of the Bible.

B) It really doesn't matter if you think he looked like – 98lb weakling or Lou Ferrigno –

Bb)His exploits are super Human – more like the Incredible Hulk – than Hulk Hogan

C) Tore a lion apart bare hands — Carried gates of Gaza weighing approx. 5 tons – 5,000 lbs – 36 miles – Why?

D) Catches 300 foxes – How do you do that? Fox hunt - How long did it take? –

1) Ties their tails together – fire to a field

E) My personal Favorite Kills 1,000 Philistines with the Jawbone of a Donkey

Samson was an enigma –

Jason did a good Job last weekend – the reasons for Samson's Demise.

#1 He had Dedication without Devotion

#2 – He had Authority without Accountability

#3 – He had Power but no Purity

TODAY – I want to consider the Secret of Samson's strength?

A) That is what was on the minds of everyone

B) In fact here in Judges 16 the lords of the Philistines agree to pay a lady named Delilah – 1100 pieces of Silver each. – 5 lords = 5500 pieces of silver

1) Or the equivalent of \$30,000 dollars – if she can find out the secret of Samson's strength.

C) Context – read this passage again – started last week. -

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you." {And Samson broke up with Delilah. - Normal guy ends the relationship right there right?

D) "Tell me the secret of your great strength so I can bind you and afflict you."

1) - Funny you should ask that honey.....

⁷ And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man."

⁸ So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. ⁹ Now *men were* lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. {I have been honest with you – I want to bind you afflict you. you have mocked me and told me lies - Now, please tell me what you may be bound with."

¹¹ So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man."

¹² Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon

you, Samson!” And *men were* lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.

{The text doesn’t tell us this but I have to believe this wasn’t all in the same day. – Not that stupid – who knows - **Women have a strange power over men** - Samson’s pride he thinks he is invincible}

13 Delilah said to Samson, “Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with.” And he said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom”—

14 So she wove *it* tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.

15 Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart *is* not with me? {Because you are a freaky Femme Fatale} You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength *lies*.”

16 And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, **{literally nagged him}** so that his soul was vexed to death, {nagged him to death – vexed – she word him out.}¹⁷ that he told her all his heart, and said to her, “No razor has ever come upon my head, for I *have been* a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.”

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.” So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. **19** Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. **20** And she said, “The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him. {Saddest verses in the Bible}

21 Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

SIDE NOTE: This is what sin does - it will blind you, bind you, and it will make life a grind!

V.20 makes it clear – The Secret to Samson’s strength was that the Lord was with him. With him in a Supernatural way.

A) See there is something that we read concerning Samson’s life – appears 4 times in his story

B) The **Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Samson.....** Judges 13:25, Judges 14:6
Judges 14:19 , Judges 15:14

C) The Spirit of God – came upon Samson mightily - extraordinary

We read a similar thing about three of the other Judges – that enabled them to do what God had called them to.

A) We are told of Othniel, (Judges 3:10) Gideon, (Judges 6:34) and Jephthah (Judges 11:29) The Spirit of the Lord came upon them.

B) But with Samson – **it was in an EVEN GREATER DEGREE.**

1) The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Samson.....

C) **GOD supplied Samson with unusual strength!**

1)He was able to exhibit super human strength!

D)That super human strength enabled Samson to be what God had called him to be which was a **DELIVERER FOR ISRAEL!**

What does that have to do with us? –

A)Well God has called you to be something for Him as well.

B)The Bible says of each of us in Ephesians 2:10 that “**we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared before hand that we should walk in them.**”

C)Workmanship is poema in the Greek it means masterpiece or work of Art.

Art is the expression of the artist –

A)And **God is the master Artist** who desires that each of us would be an expression of who He is in the world.

B)He has a plan for each of us in our own spheres of influence to be a part of His plan of redemption –
1)to win and redeem a lost world to Himself

C)God wants us to live for **HIM IN THIS DARK WORLD**

D)In the Same way that God supplied – Samson and Gideon and Othniel and Jephthah **with what they needed to do what He called them to.**

1)God has also supplied us!

So you want to know what is the Secret of Your strength as a believer?

A)Strength to do what God has called you to do?

It is in living a Spirit empowered life.

B)Discuss today the Ministry of the Spirit in the life of the believer.

Turn to John 14

¹⁵“**If you love Me, keep My commandments.** { Easier said than done right – Love our enemies – forgive those who wronged us. Turn the other cheek. – Not easy - } **Pastors kid** –

Hard commands - So it is almost as if Jesus was anticipating that response. {Lord that is easier said than done.

¹⁶ **And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—**
¹⁷ **the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.** ¹⁸ **I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.**

Not leaving you here to try & figure this out ALONE

A)I am going to send another Helper – who will abide with you forever!

B)Jesus says another: Literally Another of the same Kind ! – Same Stock Someone **JUST LIKE ME!**

C)**Important that we note: The Holy Spirit is not a Force – this isn’t Star wars – Luke – May the force be with you!**

D)**The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Triune God** – Literally the Spirit of Jesus – His spirit V.18 – I will come to you! –

1)other words - I am literally sending my spirit to you!

E) John 16:7 **Better that I go away** – Because bodily – one place at a time – Spirit with them all wherever they were. – 5 Galilee – 7 in Jerusalem

Notice what Jesus says: V.17 He is with you! – In Jesus who was with them.

A) But The Holy Spirit is with every man!

Aa) Even before you are saved! - Holy Spirit draws us to Christ.

B) John 16:8 Holy Spirit's job **to convict the world of it's Sin and of God's righteousness and of the coming Judgment.**

1) **God has put eternity in the heart of every man.** { More than this}
- Day of Reckoning. { Some try to ignore – not think about – still true

C) Appointed for everyman to die once – then comes Judgment! Heb 9:27

1) We are all going to have to stand before God one day to give an account

D) It is interesting in John 16:9 Jesus defines the sin that people are going to be Judged by **“The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.”**

So the Holy Spirit of Jesus is with every man – even if not saved – convicting the world of it's Sin and of God's righteousness and of the coming Judgment.

A) So when you are partying all night – wake up the next morning feeling horrible. - That is the Holy Spirit convicting you of sin and righteousness.

B) I thought **that was a hangover** – that is the physical affects

C) But I am talking about how you feel in your heart afterwards – Guilty – **probably shouldn't have done that –**

1) Holy Spirit working in your life.

See the Bible says that sin is pleasurable for a Season: - Sin is pleasurable

A) How many of you have had fun – experienced pleasure sinning? Can we admit that in Church –

B) **Sin is pleasurable** – but the end of it brings death – Destroys things – Blinds, binds, it grinds –

C) **Sin is pleasurable but it is not Satisfying – we wake up the next day – emptiness**

See the Bible essentially teaches us that mankind has a void – a God shaped hole in his heart – Can only be satisfied in a relationship with God

A) You were made for a higher purpose – just to live for yourself.

B) Sin living for pleasure can be fun – but it is not satisfying – The Holy Spirit who is with you – Magnifies that –

1) **YOU WERE MADE FOR SO MUCH MORE**

C) Conviction – that was wrong that was stupid – feelings of emptiness

1) The Bible describes it **as Knocking on the door of your heart -**

D) Most people ignore the knocking - - continue to search for Satisfaction in experiences – one pleasurable moment to another.

1) Never experiencing a lasting Satisfaction.

E) But when a person responds to the promptings and conviction of the spirit that they are sinners and they need a savior.

1) A change happens – the Holy Spirit moves from being – **just with the person, to DWELLING IN THEM!**

So Jesus says here to His disciples the Holy Spirit is with you! But then He adds V. 17b – “He shall be in you.”

A) Paul describes it as **dwelling in our hearts through faith**. Ephesians 3:17 / Romans 8:9

B) In Fact Paul describes our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

*¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit **who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own. For you have been bought with a price.*

C) So the Holy Spirit not only is with us – but at Conversion resides in us.

This is the difference between believers in God in the OT and followers of Christ in the NT.

A) Believers in God in the OT had the Holy Spirit with them – but not in them.

B) The **Spirit of God was with them and sometimes would come upon them** – seen here in Judges – resulting in Wisdom, strength, faith etc.

C) It was noticeable to them – which is why David would pray – “**Lord take not your Holy Spirit from me.**”

D) David FELT A Difference between when the Holy Spirit was upon him and when He wasn't –

1) So he prayed - Lord don't take that from me.

But God prophesied through the prophet Ezekiel of a new Covenant that would come through His Son Jesus –

A) Believers whole relationship with the Holy Spirit Changes

Ezekiel 36:26,27

*²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.*

B) This is a whole new deal – not just with you but in you! – This happened after Jesus died and Rose again.

C) John 20:22 – **Breathed on them – Receive the Holy Spirit – Born again**

D) This is What happens when a person gives their heart to Christ

The Role and work of the Holy Spirit “IN” us!

A) The Holy Spirit teaches us – John 14:26

B) Makes the Bible come alive and make sense –

1) Ever notice how the Bible was sort of dry before saved {Didn't understand it – Wasn't that interesting – but After saved - came alive – can't put down

C) **Paul said of God's word – Spiritual book – spiritually Discerned –**

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

D) So the Holy Spirit teaches us – brings God’s word to life!

Not only does the Holy Spirit teach us – but He also – guides us – John 16:23

A) Makes application of the word – how to apply it to our hearts

B) Does that through Bible study but also through – speaking or impressing on your heart in prayer.

C) Longer you walk with Jesus – yield and dependent on him, the more in tune you become to the Spirit’s promptings

D) So the Holy Spirit teaches us and Guides us –

The Holy Spirit functions as a fruit producer in the Life of the believer who is seeking to walk in the Spirit. GALATIANS 5:22-24

A) Not apples and oranges – weird

B) **Fruit of the Spirit** – Love, Joy, Patience, Kindness {become more a part of your demeanor

C) It is HIS Work on the inside – that affects your life on the outside.

So Jesus described here in John 14 a two –fold relationship that we can have with the Spirit – With prior to conversion – IN after conversion.

A) But there is another experience that we can have with the Holy Spirit that is similar to the OT saints

B) Acts 1: 4-8 After the Resurrection – Jesus is meeting with his disciples

4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit **has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

C) Now the HS was already with them and In them But Jesus said – new experience –

1) He is going to come upon you! – Different word - experience

D) The Result is going to be power & boldness to be my witnesses!

1) They needed supernatural power & boldness to fulfill their calling – to take the message of the Gospel all over the world – amidst great opposition

We read in Acts chapter 2 that is exactly what happened – Suddenly Peter who denied Jesus – three times – servant girl – standing up to preach.

A) At least 3,000 people present – HIS MESSAGE: YOU CRUCIFIED THE MESSIAH – NEED TO REPENT

B) This is similar to the experience of the saints in the OT – the Holy Spirit would come upon them – great exploits

1) NT – similar – **Come upon them for the need that was at hand – PREACHING THE GOSPEL.**

C) Healing – Acts 4 Peter – Filled – Name of Jesus – Rise and Walk

D) **The Lord takes – 12 ordinary guys** – the Disciples – and empowered BY THE HOLY SPIRIT – and uses them to do the extraordinary –

1) Testimony: They turned the world upside down!

E) **We are here today and Christian faith is prevalent in so much of the world today-** over – 2,000 yrs later because of these – Spirit empowered 12 Men

God today in our day and age is still wanting to use Ordinary people to do the Extraordinary / Extraordinary.

A) **Dominic in Brazil** - 10,000

B) **Jason in Texas** – No sense – young guy from California – Dodger and a Raiders fan –

1) Sends him to Texas – Not Dallas – Houston – Austin – Hip cities – Send him to Hicksville – Paris Texas – population 26,000

C) **Phil and Rebecca** – White albino – Costa Rica – not surf community but the Village – Pop 3,000

1) Uses them mightily to impact Costa Ricans

D) **Guy like me** – hates public speaking – no desire to be Pastor – I will use you to tell people about Me all over the world – You will teach Pastors

E) **Ben Garate** – Montrose Colorado, Pop 10,000 - One traffic light - Ben is very - Spanish –over 90% of the Population White people

1) Can't Write those Scripts –

E) That is what God does – uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary!

Now You might be thinking – but I am not a Pastor? – Not in the ministry – I am not a Missionary – so – what does this have to do with me!

A) But it is not just for the Extraordinary it is also for the everyday!

B) Paul the apostle in writing to the Ephesians would say: Ephesians 5:18 ¹⁸ **And do not get drunk with wine, {this is how the world deals with their pressure – give me something to get me through the day.) So -do not get drunk with wine for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,**

Bb) **Filled is continually being filled** – same idea as empowered – filled to overflowing!

C) What does that mean – if the Holy Spirit is in me, does that mean that I am somehow getting more of the Holy Spirit?

1) Better Definition is **He is getting more of you.** { Sail boat illustration

What is interesting about this exhortation is the instruction that follows

A) Paul talks about Marriage – relationship between Husband & Wife/ Parenting – How to raise our kids

B) Then Work – How to be a good Employer and Employee

C) **Finishes it all up by talking about Spiritual warfare – Ephesians 6:10 - Be strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might!**

But the lead in statement to all of that instruction is **You need to be daily continually being filled with the Spirit of God!**

A) That is the thing that sets the Christian apart – that this the thing that makes it so that we are not like every other man!

B) We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit - To be the Christian, to be husband or wife that God has called you to be.

C) **To be the Parent – worker** – and to stand strong in the battle.

D) God wants us to understand – Not in this alone: Holy Spirit IN you – Help you, teach you, guide you, and to empower you

1) So ask Him to come upon you – Fill you to overflowing today

E) **Everyday! We need to Be filled – But we need to ask**

JESUS GAVE THIS ANALOGY IN Luke 13 – Said “You in comparison to God are evil fathers – His motives always pure, true – wants best

A) You being evil in comparison to God – know how to give good gifts to your children

B) How much more will the Heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask!

C) **Ask – Tell him – Lord I need your help –**

A Witness – Wife – Husband

That is sometimes our problem: We don't see the need!

A) We are not living under persecution like the early church - Don't realize the need for strength and boldness

B) And We forget that we are His workmanship

C) Even in our daily living as parents and Spouses and employees and employers – **He is wanting to express Himself – to the world**

1) To those in our sphere of influence – Co-workers, Kids, neighbors – family

D) We don't see the need so we don't ask – We are **too SELF DEPENDENT**

But the Longer I walk with Jesus – the more I realize – what my family needs – Our church needs – Less of me and More of Jesus.

A) Like John I need to decrease, so that Jesus can increase

B) Lord empty me of me and fill me to overflowing with You!

C) Do you realize that need as well?

D) **He has given us His Spirit** – But are we living Spirit empowered lives ?

As we close today:

A) Believer – You need today – To be Filled with the Spirit – Some of you have never asked – You need to do so today.

B) Others of you – Fresh filling!

C) **Not saved** – Holy Spirit is with You and convicting you of your need for a Savior – Made to live in relationship with God

D) You know that – deep inside – You realize – Void – Only Jesus can fill that – open your heart to him today.