

More than Conquerors

Judges 16:1-22

March 18, 2007

Introduction

Romans 8:37, “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.”

1. Do you believe this verse?
2. Do you also believe it when it applies to your greatest area of personal struggle?
3. As believers, we acknowledge its truth, but we often live our lives in a constant state of defeat.
4. I believe the Lord has more for us. He wants His people to experience His victory in every area.

***** I believe we can overwhelmingly conquer all personal strongholds through Jesus Christ!**

5. How? Let’s look at the life of Samson and discover 3 principles for conquering the sin that has been conquering us.

READ Judges 16:1-22

Context

1. God raised up Samson to be Israel’s judge or deliverer.
2. The Holy Spirit was upon this man in a powerful way.
3. Yet, Samson in many ways was symbolic of the nation of Israel as a whole:
 - a. He was in a covenant relationship with God – great promise & potential;
 - b. But his heart was divided and his character was lacking.
4. Unfortunately, he is like many of us as well.
5. So how can we avoid his example and overcome...

I. Surrender To Christ (1-3)

A. Make no provision for the flesh

Romans 13:14, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lust.”

1. Samson was looking for trouble and found it!
 - a. He went to Gaza – Mediterranean version of “muscle beach”
 - b. Met a harlot and was sexually intimate
2. Samson’s problems were obvious to all
 - a. Lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes
 - b. Pride of life – “I can deliver myself”
 - c. But Samson was blinded by his lust long before he was blinded by the Philistines

Problem: He got away with it... or so he thought!

ILLUS – Stealing from a store for the first time!

Proverbs 6:27-28, “Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched?”

APPL - Isn’t that part of our problem too?

- *We sin and think we are getting away with it!*
- *Or if we get caught, we can get ourselves out of it!*

3. But the Lord loves us so much He will not allow us to get away with it!

Proverbs 5:21-22, “For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths. His own iniquities will capture the wicked, and he will be held with the cords of his sin.”

Hebrews 12:7, 10, “It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?... but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness.”

B. Surrender your weakness to Christ

1. Surrender by asking God for help

Hebrews 2:17-18, “Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in all things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that

which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”

2. Surrender by presenting yourself to God as an offering
Romans 12:1-2, “I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

ILLUS – John’s victory over homosexuality

Transition – But if we do not surrender our weaknesses to the Lord, we fail to realize that the enemy is just setting a bigger trap!

II. Pursue Christ (4-16)

A. With all of your heart

1. Samson was a Nazirite from birth
 - a. No wine
 - b. No contact with anything that was dead
 - c. No haircuts
 - d. Symbolic of complete devotion to the Lord through a covenant relationship
2. But Samson had an appetite for forbidden fruit (4)
 - a. Sorek – “chosen vine”... a warning to a Nazirite?
 - b. Delilah – “devoted one”... what was she devoted too?
3. The Philistines wanted to make a trophy out of Samson (5)

APPL – Satan wants to make a trophy out of us

- *To put us on display on his mantle*
- *So that he can whisper to others, you can’t overcome... just like “ !”*

ILLUS – A friend’s mockery of my rededication!

4. Samson couldn’t see the warning sign because he was trying to serve two masters, God and his lusts (6)

Matthew 6:24, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

5. Pray for an undivided heart

Psalm 86:11, “Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth; Unite my heart to fear Thy name.”

6. Pray for a godly appetites

Matthew 5:6, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

Psalm 34:8, “O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

7. Set your mind on the things of God

Colossians 3:1-2, “If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”

ILLUS – Losing weight

B. Flee temptation

1. Samson pursued his fleshly appetites and flirted with temptation
2. Notice his answers got closer to the truth
3. Notice the tactics of Delilah
 - a. “Don’t you love me?” (15)
 - b. She pressed him daily (16)
 - c. His soul was annoyed to death (16)
4. Samson should have seen the warning signs – “Behold, the Philistines are upon you!”
5. But Samson kept coming back for more!

APPL – Like Samson, many of us try to resist temptation when we should be fleeing temptation

- *By doing so we are leaving a door open for failure*

- Many of us think that we will have the strength to say “No” in the heat of the moment; that we know when to quit!
- We need to quit before we start!
- Come away from the shadows and walk in the light!

ILLUS – Joseph & Potiphar’s Wife

Genesis 39:7-12

2 Timothy 2:22, “Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

“If you pursue good with labor, the labor passes away but the good remains; if you pursue evil with pleasure, the pleasure passes away and the evil remains.” Cicero

APPL – You will never regret pursuing the things of Christ with an undivided heart!

III. Strengthen Yourself In Christ (17-22)

A. Our strength is not enough

1. Flirting with temptation wore Samson down (17)
2. Delilah said “Show me the money” because Samson had “told her all that was in his heart” (18)
3. Delilah lulled him to sleep in her lap just like Satan lulls us into complacency

1 Peter 5:8-9, “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

4. Cut hair symbolized broken relationship (19)
5. Samson’s power was not in his hair but in His relationship with the Lord
6. He was the last to know that the Lord had left him (20)

Contrast – The Holy Spirit will never leave us as He did Samson!

B. Christ’s strength is more than enough

1. For those who abide in Him

John 15:4-5, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

2. His grace is sufficient

1 Corinthians 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”

ILLUS – El Shaddai

Conclusion

VERSE 22, “However, the hair of his head began to grow after it was shaved off.”

Rededication to the Lord...

Charting a new course... new pattern of life! Following our Trail Blazer, Jesus Christ

Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”