

June 20, 2021

Samson's Faith

by Rickie Jenkins

Samson is one of the most interesting characters in the Bible. There have been innumerable lessons on Samson's failures, and there were many. But have you appreciated that when God looked at Samson, He included him in the Hall of Faith of Heroes in Hebrews 11? When God includes Samson, He does not say, "Oh, wait, Samson also had these particular flaws." No, God includes Samson with Abel, Abraham, Moses, and Jacob.

So, shouldn't we appreciate Samson because of his faith, not denigrate him because of his flaws? Samson's faith stands as an example for us today. Also, Samson ought to give us great confidence today. God includes him as an example of faith despite his flaws. If God does that with Samson, will He not do that for me and you?

See, it's not how we start but where we end. It is not about the journey but the destination. Think about Abraham just a minute. Abraham also did some despicable things, but we don't treat him like we treat Samson. It was not a single point in Abraham's life that matters. It was his complete life. When we look at the totality of his life, we see him as the father of the faithful. Even so with Samson. If we isolate a particular incident in his life, he does not look so good. But when we take the totality of

his life, God includes him among those of great faith.

We are a lot like Samson. We stumble, bumble and fall. We sin, sometimes grievously. But it is not a particular moment in our life that we isolate. It is the totality of our lives of faith. We may fall, but because of our faith we keep pressing toward the mark.

Two things come to my mind. First, when we look at ourselves, we need to see not just the moment, but our lifetime of faith. It is easy to get down on ourselves because of sins and mistakes we make. It is easy to trash ourselves, but it is a lifetime of faith that makes the difference.

Second, God includes Samson as a man of great faith. So why do we berate those who do fall, yet get back up and continue to walk by faith? If a person has been contrite and demonstrated that contrition, shouldn't we view them as God does Samson?

We can bash Samson but that is not why God includes him among the greats of faith. God tells it plain about Samson, but He also tells us Samson's faith was such that he ought to be emulated. God includes Samson to show us we too can be people of great faith, even with our flaws.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde is having their summer series "Gifts We Can Use For God" each Thursday through August 19.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Ephesians 5:22-6:4

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson had recent surgery for his back pain.

Doug Adair is struggling with back pain and is seeking a second opinion before deciding on treatment.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

Nancy Richardson is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

Sue Stanberry has moved into assisted living.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes.

Morgan O'Hair is waiting to see another doctor to treat an infection.

Dinah Williams continues to be homebound due to mobility issues. She had a small fire at her house last week and will have to move out while repairs are done.

Bobbie Gibbons continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues.

Tyler Hairston has cancer.

Don and Alene Simmons are both suffering from pain and mobility limitations.

Dorothy Steadman is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Pam.

Faye Estes passed away this past week.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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