

Anointed to Serve

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

In many ways, Samson's life illustrates the life of the believer. Samson had a miraculous birth after his mother was considered barren (Judges 13). Likewise, our spiritual birth is also a miracle. Jesus told Nicodemus, *"unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3). Nicodemus asked Jesus, *"How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"* Jesus answered, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God"* (John 3:4-5). The Bible also says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Christians are born-again people. Just like Samson's birth, a believer's spiritual birth is a miracle; it happens by divine intervention.

Samson was called and set apart for God's purpose. Christians are also called and set apart for God's purpose. Paul tells us that we are God's sons and daughters; we have been called out and set apart for Him (2 Corinthians 6:11-18). God's call and purpose for Samson was to overcome and deliver Israel from the Philistines. As born-again believers, we are called to live victorious Christian lives. We are not to live after our sinful nature and not to love the world (1 John 2:15-17).

Samson had supernatural strength to live a life of obedience to God. The Bible says that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson (Judges 14:6, 19, 15:14). Whenever the Holy Spirit came upon him, Samson gained supernatural strength and he had power to be victorious. We are powerless without the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, *"It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil"* (Isaiah 10:27). The anointing oil speaks of the anointing of the Holy Spirit that lifts burdens and breaks the yoke of bondage. Also the Bible says, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"* (Acts 1:8).

I would like to point out three areas that Samson showed his strength. Firstly, he prevailed over the gates of the city of the Philistines (Judges 16:3). The Bible says that when the Holy Spirit came upon him, he lifted up those gates and carried them up to the hill. Those "gates" symbolise Satan's captivity of the people. Satan wants us to be his prisoners. However, when the anointing of the Holy Spirit comes upon us, *"the gates of Hades shall not prevail"* (Matthew 16:18). Jesus said, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed"* (Luke 4:18). Are you in captivity? You can be set free by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, Samson killed the lion (Judges 14:5, 6). The lion symbolises Satan – he wants to rob, kill and destroy us (John 10:10). The lion came to attack Samson but the Bible says, *"And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done"* (Judges 14:6). The anointing of the Holy Spirit gives us power to defeat Satan. Satan has no strength against those who are empowered by the Holy

Spirit. If you have the anointing of the Holy Spirit on your life, you have the greatest strength that you can ever have to be a witness. *“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”* (Acts 1:8).

Thirdly, Samson broke the ropes that were binding him as if he was breaking a thread (Judges 16:12). He was able to do so because the Spirit of the Lord was upon him. The lesson for us here is that when the Holy Spirit anoints us, we have the power to break every evil habit that binds our lives. The Spirit of the Lord can set us free from every sinful habit. He is able to help us live holy lives acceptable to God. Therefore, seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily (Ephesians 5:18).

There are three things for us to do in order to be acceptable to God and to serve Him. Firstly, we need to be born again. Secondly, we must be willing to separate ourselves from the world – the world of lust and pride. Thirdly, we must have the Holy Spirit’s anointing or be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39). Samson had all of these three things demonstrated in his life. But there was a time when he lost his anointing. There are many people today who, like Samson, have lost the power to live for Christ. They were born-again, lived for God and experienced the anointing of the Holy Spirit but today, they are no longer living for God as a witness. This is sad and disappointing.

There are three areas in which we need to be on guard. These are clearly seen in Samson’s life. Firstly, God withdraws his anointing from Christians who go back to a life of sin. When Samson disobeyed God and compromised his lifestyle, he lost the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, do not disobey God and compromise your lifestyle because it will rob you of the anointing on your life.

Secondly, the gratification of the flesh and the anointing of the Holy Spirit do not go together. *“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish”* (Galatians 5:17). We cannot serve two Masters. Serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, beware of pride. This was Satan’s downfall and man’s. The Bible says, *“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for `God resists the proud, but give grace to the humble”* (1 Peter 5:5). Therefore, we must say like John the Baptist, *“He must increase, but I must decrease”* (John 3:30). Paul says, *“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Ephesians 4:1-3). It is our responsibility to strive for unity and to do this, we must begin “with all lowliness” or with humility.

Did Samson repent? Yes, he did! The Bible says, *“Then Samson called to the Lord, saying, “O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes! And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. Then Samson said, ‘Let me die with the Philistines!’ And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were*

in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life”
(Judges 16:28-30). God is merciful; when Samson repented, God forgave him and restored his power. *”If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). Therefore, let us repent of our sins and allow His anointing to come upon us so that we may live for Him and serve Him!

(All the Bible quotations are from the New King James Version).

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