



SERIES: GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE
TOPIC: HOW TO BECOME A STRONGER PERSON – PASTOR ALTON TRIMBLE
SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

HEBREWS 1:32 (NLT) *How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets.*

TRUTH: You don't have enough time to learn everything from experience.

JUDGES 13:24 (NKJV) *So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.*

THREE THINGS IN SAMSON'S LIFE TO AVOID IN OUR OWN:

1. SELF-INDULGENCE WEAKENS YOUR LIFE.

TRUTH: Anything left uncontrolled in your life will weaken you.

JUDGES 14:1-3 *Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. ² So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife." ³ Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well."*

TRUTH: Small things can have an enormous impact in your life.

GALATIANS 6:7-8a&b (NKJV) *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12, Paul says, *"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything.*

PROVERBS 25:28 says, *Those who do not control themselves are like a city whose walls are broken down.*

2. BITTERNESS WILL WEAKEN YOUR LIFE.

JUDGES 14:14: *So he said to them: "Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the strong came something sweet." Now for three days they could not explain the riddle.*

JUDGES 15:3 *And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!"*

JUDGES 15:7 *Samson said to them, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease."*

JUDGES 15:11 *Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them."*

TRUTH: Resentment is a waste of time, energy and creativity.

NOTE: The creativity used in plotting your revenge could be used in planting your success.

JUDGES 15:3 *And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!"*

verse 14-15 *When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. ¹⁵ He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.*

PROVERBS 29:22 *An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.*

PROVERBS 16:32 *He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.*

PROVERBS 29:11 *"A fool gives full vent to his anger. But a man of understanding controls himself."*

3. CARELESSNESS WEAKENED YOUR LIFE.

JUDGES 13:3 (NLT) *The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son."*

Verse 4-5: *So be careful; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. ⁵ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never*

be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.”

JUDGES 16:4-8 (NIV) *Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, “See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels^[a] of silver.” ⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued.” ⁷ Samson answered her, “If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I’ll become as weak as any other man.” ⁸ Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them.*

JUDGES 16:10-12 (NKJV) *Then Delilah said to Samson, “Look, 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.*

JUDGES 16:13-14 (NKJV) *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.*

JUDGES 16:15-22 (NKJV) *Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart is not with me? 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, so that his soul was vexed to death, 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. 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. ²² However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.*

Three Questions:

1. What is out of control in your life?
2. Who are you resentful against? Bitter against?
3. What are you committed to?