

**God Gives Sampson Strength,
December 7, 2014
Judges 13:1-5 and Judges 13:14-Judges 14:1-9**

Nazirite- “to be separated out.”

They must abstain from wine and other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or other fermented drink. They must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins.⁴ As long as they remain under their Nazirite vow, they must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins.⁵ “During the entire period of their Nazirite vow, no razor may be used on their head. They must be holy until the period of their dedication to the LORD is over; they must let their hair grow long.⁶ “Throughout the period of their dedication to the LORD, the Nazirite must not go near a dead body.⁷ Even if their own father or mother or brother or sister dies, they must not make themselves ceremonially unclean on account of them, because the symbol of their dedication to God is on their head.

Numbers 6:3-7

No fermented **drink**, no **razor** could touch his head, he must not go near a **dead** body. Judges 13:4-5. Samson was to be set apart for God’s purposes

“The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power”.

Judges 14:6a

Why did God give Samson His power and Spirit in the first place and why does He continue to give it to us today? Because it is all about **Him** and you and I can’t make it a day **without** Him.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

God would use Samson for His purposes, to begin the deliverance of the Philistines. Yet it would happen more in spite of him rather than through obedience, for the majority of his lifetime.

1) He (Samson) was: Set apart for God’s purposes!

All believers are also set apart!

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10

As a believer we are to follow God. Being a Christian is not a one **time** decision per se, it is a new identity, and it’s a lifestyle. Being a Christian is giving all we are to all of who God is and jumping all in. It’s putting our trust in, and solely following, Jesus.

Chuck Missler says, “Samson was a man of **faith** but he wasn’t a **faithful** man.” We are to be both. Hebrews 11, Samson was in the hall of faith.

By the way, there is not a **retirement** age on being set apart! There is not a retirement age on serving and following God. There is no “I have put in my time” when it comes to walking and serving God.

2) He was given God’s **strength**

We have been given God’s strength, are we tapping into it: *I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.*

¹¹ *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.* ¹² *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.* **Philippians 4:10-13**

Paul and others faced difficulties, adversities, and struggles but knowing God, and with God’s strength, they made it through.

3) Though “set apart” Samson quickly went the **opposite** of God’s way

Are you going God’s way or yours? Samson would still play into God’s plan even as he was disobedient, but he missed God along with the blessings and benefits and caused himself a lot of pain and heartache. Although he was set apart for God’s purposes, he didn’t willing follow.

What are we doing now that we have been set apart? What are we doing with God’s power---using it for our own glory and purposes, using it for His?

Either way He will carry out His purpose....I want it to happen because I am in tune with God not out of tune.

Questions:

-Have I been set **apart** for God’s plan and purposes? Do I know God through Jesus?

-If you have been set apart (know God) and received His strength are you **follow** Him or following your self or others? Samson was set apart but He didn’t fully follow God, though God still used him.

-Will God use you because you are growing and walking with him out of **obedience** or will God use you **rebellion**, stupidity, and desire to run away from Him. He will use it but in the process others are affected.