

Hair Today – Gone Tomorrow

Maintaining Spiritual Power

Judges 16

The life of Samson helps believers discover the keys to maintaining spiritual power:

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9 (New International Version)

As we discover how spiritual power was lost in Samson's life, we will likewise learn how we can maintain spiritual power:

► #1. WE MAINTAIN SPIRITUAL POWER BY STAYING CLOSE TO GOD.

Then she said, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" He woke up and thought, "I'll leave as I did before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. Judges 16:20 (New Century Version)

So he told her everything. He said, "I have never had my hair cut, because I have been set apart to God as a Nazarite since I was born. If someone shaved my head, I would lose my strength and be as weak as any other man." Judges 16:17 (NCV)

- Samson confused the Symbol with the Source.
- Principle: The power of faith isn't in the amount of faith we may have, but in the Object of our faith!
- As believers: We can feel disconnected from the Spirit of God, but we will never have the Holy Spirit removed from us.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

- Application: Start and end each day with a time of personal prayer and study.

► #2. WE MAINTAIN SPIRITUAL POWER BY DEVELOPING WHOLESOME RELATIONSHIPS.

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. Psalm 1:1 (NIV)

Samson was not careful about the people he chose to be close to.

We experience spiritual growth and spiritual power when we are velcroed to God's Word and God's people.

Application: Get connected with God's people in fellowship and accountability.

► #3. WE MAINTAIN SPIRITUAL POWER BY REFUSING TO COMPROMISE.

- Rather than break his relationship with Delilah, Samson allowed it to break him.
- When we compromise and take steps of disobedience, our sin separates us from the presence of God.

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV)

- Application: Take a "Compromise Inventory."

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

► #4. WE MAINTAIN SPIRITUAL POWER WHEN WE CRY OUT TO GOD.

Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "Lord GOD, remember me. God please give me strength one more time so I can pay back these Philistines for putting out my two eyes!" ²⁹Then Samson turned to the two pillars that supported the whole temple. He braced himself between the two pillars, with his right hand on one and his left hand on the other. ³⁰Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed as hard as he could, causing the temple to fall on the rulers and all the people in it. So Samson killed more of the Philistines when he died than when he was alive. Judges 16:28-30 (NCV)

- God is a God who is ever near to hear the cry of broken, repentant people.

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10 (NIV)

- Personal Application

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.