

Flannel Board (Stories You Heard Wrong)

Samson

HOOK: God miraculously saves us. We don't save ourselves.

We're beginning a series called Flannel Board - Stories You've Heard Wrong. We're going to take a look at some people in the Bible, tell their story and just ask the Lord, what can we learn from their life and from their moment in Israel's history. Today, we're kicking this off with Samson!

The Story

Judges 14-16

- **Samson was a miracle baby!**

The Book of Judges tells us that Samson was a Judge for Israel for 20 years. Before Samson was born, we learn in the book of Numbers that his mom was barren meaning she couldn't have kids. BUT

An angel appeared to Samson's mom and promised her a miracle - not only would she have a son but he'd deliver the people of God

- **He was promised by God to deliver Israel from their enemy**

- The Promise was that he would deliver the people of Israel from their 40 years in oppression of the Philistines!

- **He's born with the Spirit of the Lord upon his life** - in a supernatural way.

Now, many of you know (VIDEO GET READY)

That we are fostering an awesome little baby named Lukas.

He is bringing SO much joy in our life.

Something you may know about him - He is incredibly strong! We have a little Samson on our hands!

Here's Proof! **VIDEO PLAYS**

He grows up and is given this SuperMan type strength - **"When the Spirit of the Lord came upon him" he'd do mighty feats of strength.**

Here's just a few examples:

When he and his parents went to Timnah to arrange the marriage, a lion came out of the vineyards and Samson, upon whom the Spirit of the Lord came mightily, tore the lion in half.

HE TORE the LION in HALF! Big deal!

Later he found that a swarm of bees had made honey in the carcass of the lion (Jgs 14:2–9).

Samson made a feast at Timnah, as was the custom, and told the Philistine men a riddle which involved the lion and the honey. A wager was made on the riddle and the Philistines prevailed upon his wife to learn the answer and disclose it to them. When they came up with the answer, Samson knew what had happened, Why? HE wanted to be the smart one. He couldn't believe he had been outsmarted. **He was full of the spirit's power but was lacking wisdom.**

He went out and killed 30 Philistine men to pay for his bet (Jgs 14:19).

Samson went home and his father-in-law gave Samson's wife to Samson's best man (vv 10–20).

When Samson returned to see his wife, he was not allowed to visit her, so he took 300 foxes, tied them in pairs tail-to-tail, fixed a torch to each pair, and turned them loose in the grain fields of the Philistines, so that the harvest and standing grain were burned. Consequently the Philistines came and burned his wife and her father; Samson went out and slaughtered many of them (Jgs 15:1–8).

So it's back n forth - revenge for revenge, right?

The Philistines now came against Judah and the people of Judah bound Samson with new ropes to turn him over to the Philistines. When they came to Lehi, where the Philistines were camped, the Spirit of the Lord came on him mightily. He snapped the ropes, seized the jawbone of a donkey, and killed 1000 Philistines; he was very thirsty and cried to the Lord, so God opened a spring of water at Lehi (Jgs 15:9–20).

Before we move on with the story, I want to make one point about “the Spirit of God” coming upon Samson. This isn't the point of the sermon or heart of the message but nonetheless it's an important teaching point.

The Spirit of God came upon God's chosen servant, in this case Samson, occasionally for specific purposes and was not present on all believers. Because of God giving His Spirit when the church was started in Acts 2, that same Spirit is given to all believers. All are empowered with supernatural ability to deliver people out of bondage.

Just like Samson was given supernatural strength to help the people of Israel, you and I are given supernatural talent and “spiritual gifts” as their called in Romans 12, 1 Cor 12 and so on, because that *same* Holy Spirit that came upon Israel's leaders is the *same* Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the dead and is the *same* Holy Spirit given to you when you put your faith in Christ and ask God for His Spirit!

Let's continue our story.

Samson's weakness for Philistine women continued Judges 16

This weakness for women continued to create trouble for both him and the Philistines. He went down to Gaza, where he became involved with a prostitute (Jgs 16:1). The men of the city learned that he was there and plotted to kill him at dawn, but he arose at midnight and walked off with the doors, posts, and bar of the city gate and put them on top of the hill before Hebron (vv 2, 3).

Some theologians believe that in this scene from Samson's life, we find a picture of Christ. The gates represented the authority - the authority of the city. Jesus escaped their plot to kill him and went to the gates of hell and took back the authority of death over people like you and me. His authority and power becomes our authority and power!

Now I do believe that's a picture of Christ but nonetheless we have to see the fact of the story and the facts of Samson's life look more like Days of our Lives or a scene from The Bachelor than they do something you'd see on Pure Flix!

We'll see how he is still a Type of Christ a little bit later in the sermon.

The enemy Philistines conspire to kill him in order to conquer Israel Jgs 16-17

So the Philistines realize "Look, we gotta use this weakness for beautiful women - we gotta use that weakness against him!"

Then he found Delilah, [Hey There Delilah by Plain White T's song \(the hook\) plays starts at 05 seconds - play through .25 seconds \(only plays 20 seconds\)](#)

Samson, this PLAYA, left home again and went down and found Delilah from the Valley of Sorek. The Philistines enlisted her by bribery to find out the source of his strength (Jgs 16:4, 5). She kept pestering him so he told her that if they bound him with seven fresh bowstrings he would be as weak as other men. So she bound him and cried, "The Philistines are upon you." He easily broke the bowstrings. In response to her continued questions, he kept lying to her about the secret of his strength. In succession, she bound him with new ropes (v 11) and seven locks of his hair woven together and attached to a loom (v 13). Finally she wore him down and he told her the truth. If someone shaved his head and broke his Nazirite vow, his strength would be gone (v 17). While Samson slept with his head on her knees, she called a barber, who shaved off his hair. This time when she cried "The Philistines are upon you," the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes, and took him to Gaza.

WHAT?

WHAT? A woman got the best of him!?

He killed a lion with his bare hands! He killed 1,000 people with a jawbone of a donkey! He ripped the city gates of his enemy out with his bare hands and carried them back to his town.

He was unstoppable! But a WOMAN got the best of him.
Why? Pride.

So grown up, this strength gave him an ego AND He had a temper so when he realized his wife pressured him concerning a riddle - then gave in and told his enemies the answer to the riddle, he pretty much told her she's done with him.

By the way, he tried to make amends by bringing her a goat lol
So for all the young guys out there listening - look, if you blow it with a girl and you're trying to make amends, don't bring her a goat. I mean, try flowers or something, but don't bring her a goat. She may just turn you down entirely. Lol
SWIPE LEFT! Lol

So the goat didn't work for reconciliation.

Judges 16, Samson is tricked by the enemy and captured

Notice Vs 20 ²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. ²¹ And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison."

He said "I will shake myself free"

You can never free yourself from your enemy. Satan is your enemy. He wants to destroy your life (JN 10) and only God can deliver you and set you free.

The enemy was able to use Delilah to seduce him because he lacked wisdom and restraint. His ego got the best of him. Samson didn't think his private sin would affect his public life. Your private sin will always affect your public life - in time.

I hope you hear me today. Your private sin will always affect your public life. You will suddenly find yourself in a whirlwind of trouble - at home, your marriage will suffer and you'll wonder why. At work, you'll find yourself fired from your job

and you won't be able to connect the dots - that your private sin will always affect your public life.

And even if you somehow deceive everyone around you, know that you are not deceiving God. You and I will stand before God one day at what's called The Great White Throne and give an account for what we've done. Jesus made that clear. The Apostle Paul makes that clear. Will you be found innocent because you've allowed Jesus to forgive you then chosen to walk in character OR will you try to hide your sin from God. Today I hope you make the right choice to get right with God.

Whenever you believe that you're deceiving God, know that in reality, Satan is deceiving you.

Satan will do what he did to Samson - Satan will always make you think you're stronger than you are. "Take heed lest you fall" Proverbs says. This is why you need to develop humility. This is why you need to have friends around you that will tell you the truth with a motive of love.

What happened next?

The philistines bound him and plucked his eyes out.

They held a party and mocked him placing him between two pillars

Sin will make you blind.

Sin will cause you to "leave home"

You NEED your spiritual moms and dads. In wisdom, recognize their positive influence on your life

Furthermore, in going to Gaza to sleep with a pagan woman **he has gone as far as he could from his geographic and spiritual home.**

Pride causes you to devalue mentors and pastors. Wisdom causes you to value them greatly - they are "home" to you.

Sin when it's full grown will always lead to death, **scripture says.**

Samson's sexual sin made him weak and blind.

Your sexual sin will make you weak - and blind - blind to your problems - blind to the hurt you'll cause others - blind to what God wants for your life - all the GOOD that GOD has for you!

*What you may have heard wrong when hearing or reading the story of Samson:
D*

*What you need to hear correctly:
GOD is the only one able to save us from our sin.*

Don't believe that YOU make YOU strong. Only God can give you true strength.

1 Chronicles 16:11 “Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face continually.”

The world says “look within” Live according to how you feel. The Bible says “look up” and seek God for not only your identity but your strength / wisdom.

You see, sin isn't so much about what you do on the outside as much as it is about what's living on the inside - the belief pattern - the motives of the heart. Jesus taught about this often.

Turn to Matt 15:1-20

“Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!” Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’

But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is ‘devoted to God,’ they are not to ‘honor their father or mother’ with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you saying ...

“ ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’ ”

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.” Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”

Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.””

Matthew 15:1-6, 8-20 NIV

<https://www.bible.com/111/mat.15.1-6,8-20.niv>

Jesus is teaches us to monitor what’s in our heart - to notice our motives - to carefully examine and reflect on what we’re thinking and whether our thoughts glorify God or are simply self-seeking.

Samson wasn’t paying attention to his heart. He was unwilling to show restraint or even evaluate what he was doing and why.

Turn to Ephesians 5

As you’re turning there I want to let you know that Paul has just taught about the importance of unity and church governance - that God established pastors, prophets, teachers, evangelists & apostles to equip YOU for godly living *and* to minister to others.

So just being here today - in church - you are applying that scripture - so first of all - GOOD JOB!

In Eph 4:22-24 God’s Word says ..

22 ... to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

In other words - This Christian walk - this becoming like Jesus - is a partnership. It’s God’s Spirit at work in you and YOU working alongside Him, letting Him renew you, letting him change your mind and habits and thoughts and actions.

This process is for the purpose of making you more like Jesus and to bring Jesus more glory with your life.

Don’t fall into the temptation that Samson did which was to assume He was strong without God. He believed the lie that he could succeed in life without adhering to God’s ways.

When I say “in life” I mean REALLY in life. To really succeed in life is to surrender your life to Jesus Christ and to allow HIM to be Lord, HIM to lead you and HIM to be in charge.

You don't save yourself. God saves you! Jesus broke the bonds of sin so you could be free from it!

Let's pick up vs 30.

³⁰... Don't make God sad ... ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

You will always live from identity. If you KNOW you're a child of God, then you wo

5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

You will always live from identity. If you KNOW you're a child of God, then you won't act like an orphan who doesn't have a father - who doesn't know they're loved.

You will search for love and acceptance in sex if you don't know you're loved and accepted already by Father God.

² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

⁹ for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,

¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

This passage can be easily connected to Samson's story because it has everything to do with wisdom.

Wisdom is making the best decision at the right time. Wisdom comes from fearing God and not believing that you have all the answers *apart* from God. Wisdom, we could say, is aligned with humility. Someone who is wise is humble enough to keep their mouth shut when someone is trying to teach them something. Wisdom causes us to humble ourselves and praise someone else for their work - for their positive influence - for their talents.

Wisdom is connected to integrity.

I've been reading Proverbs with my daughters in the mornings. We've read maybe 15 or so and it's remarkable how many of them personify wisdom.

Wisdom causes you to fear God and respect His Word and His ways. Wisdom causes you to admit when you're wrong, even admit your weaknesses. Wisdom causes you to desire to grow.

The man without wisdom (Proverbs calls "a fool") believes he is more important and more deserving than he is. This causes him to be open to temptation - to sin. Sin, as we read earlier, leads us into harm and eventually into death. Death can be described as separation from God. Everything that God IS is life and good and peace. Death is being separated from that peace, that goodness, that LIFE with GOD.

Let's go back to our story of Samson. How did this thing end?!

Judges 16:23-30 - Samson dies

"Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain." While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring

out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.” Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.”

Judges 16:23-30 NIV

<https://www.bible.com/111/jdg.16.23-30.niv>

Judges 16:23-30 - Samson dies ... for the victory of all of Israel!

SO WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS PROBLEM? *THE GOSPEL*

So if you're hearing this thinking “Well I'm like Samson and I'm already in the middle of this thing! I've got problems coming out of my ears. My marriage is crumbling. I'm always selfish and I seem to cause pain wherever I go. I'm like Samson, standing there with my eyes gauged out - I got no idea where to turn or what to do.”

If that's you, I've got great news for you!

JESUS took your place. Jesus is like Samson in that HE BECAME SIN and He stretched out his arms, he was mocked and stabbed and ridiculed and tortured. He died, taking the blame of not only his own sin but all the sin of all mankind and **When Jesus died, He defeated the entire enemy army all at once, just like Samson did.**

When the Philistines put Samson between those two support beams of their palace that day, they weren't just mocking Samson, they were mocking all of Israel.

Samson was their hero, their legend, their representative to the world.

When the enemy killed Samson, they were in a way, defeating Israel.

In a sudden turn of events, when Samson died, they ALL died and Israel was victorious through Samson's death! That building remember collapsed on all of them!

THE HOOK OF THE SERMON - MESSAGE MASH-UP

HOLD THE ROPE IN MY HANDS

The Gospel is this. Jesus death, the death of one man, defeated every accusing enemy that would tell you that you can't succeed, you can't be forgiven, you can't have a new start on a new life. Jesus did what you couldn't do!

Jesus broke the bonds of sin! Jesus stretched out His arms on that cross and died in your place so you could have new life! The same Holy Spirit that came upon Samson empowering him to live a miraculous life, is the same Holy Spirit given to you and me! We too can have victory over sin, victory over fear, victory over insecurity, victory over anxiety, victory over sickness, victory in every area of our lives! **God miraculously saves us. We don't save ourselves.**

Young people that are about to go away to college...

You don't succeed because you become really smart.

You don't succeed because you "network" with the right people.

You don't succeed because you're a star athlete.

You don't succeed because you have great people skills - you're charismatic and personable - great.

That's great if you're all those things but you know what really matters?

WISDOM

WISDOM that can only come from God!

Success is surrender to God's ways. Success is obedience. Obedience to God, fearing God, walking in WISDOM. That my friend is what you want to do. That's the person you want to become! That's the person GOD wants you to become.

Samson thought he could handle temptation.

You can't *handle* sin. You must defeat it by admitting it before God and asking Him for help. Ask Jesus to give you HIS righteousness. Ask His Spirit to help you restrain from sin and please God. He will always answer that prayer!

Your purity, your integrity, it matters!

It matters to God. It affects your relationship with God!

Sin pushes you away from God, but in His kindness, He sends His Holy Spirit, to convict you of sin and draw you closer to His heart.

Don't believe Satan and think you can "handle" sin; it impacts your relationships.

If you don't take the Bible's instruction to "carefully walk in a way" that honors God, you can hear and see inappropriate things on SnapChat, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube. You can get sucked in and addicted quickly to pornography. If that's happening to you, I want to give you some practical advice - some "Hey There Delilah" Advice

1. Limit Your Screen Time
2. Be Careful of the Groups, Rooms, Friends you have
3. Consider a Social Media fast for a weekend or a week or even a month
4. Be honest with a friend (90's called these Accountability Partners)
5. Pray and ask God for wisdom (James 5)

Wisdom causes us to use restraint. **Like Samson, if we don't restrain ourselves, we will be restrained.**

Sin is a tyrant and if you give Satan an inch, he'll take a mile. All the Holy Spirit to teach you the value of delayed gratification and restraint.

What do I mean?

Part of the Christian's sanctification and what we learn from Samson's story is self-denial (insert principles from that podcast that's amazing - the guy from Portland)

Why?

Self-denial

Jesus said "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me."

It's not a popular message today but it's the message of Jesus therefore, at Rock of Grace, it's our message.

Samson was unwilling to deny himself the gratification of Delilah.

Samson was unwilling to wait.

Samson was unwilling to deny himself what he wanted when he wanted it.

This is the habit of the fool. The wise person says "Lord, do you want me to have this? No? Not yet? No problem. I'm your servant, Lord."

Know that **What you see and hear on a regular basis will form your thoughts - your thoughts forms your actions - your actions create habits - your habits define your LIFE!**

Choose to let God purify you and make you PURE. Jesus makes you pure. Jesus can forgive you if you've already watched inappropriate things. Jesus will wash you clean. JESUS will teach you a better way.

If you don't let God teach you a better way and give you wisdom, you'll end up in a place you don't want to be.

Samson didn't intend on being chained to pillars with his eyes gouged out.

Your life will always follow what your eyes are looking at.

What are you focused on? Are you focused on Jesus? Are you looking at Jesus and reading His Word, listening to worship music and discussing with friends how amazing Jesus is? **Are you intentional about it, Do you plan your time looking at Jesus? If not, you'll drift away from Jesus. You'll always move in the direction of your thoughts. Your thoughts follow what you're looking at and focused on.**

You must begin to see the connection between pride and depravity.

In the heart, the audacious person, full of pride, says to himself ... "Self, I am not depraved. I am not a sinner. In fact, I'm quite good. I'm not only good. I'm awesome!

Pride is at the center of both the agnostic and the religious zealot.

In pride, the agnostic says "I don't need God. I am a good person on my own. I create my own self-fulfillment."

In pride, the religious zealot adds requirements to the freedom and grace found in Jesus (reference Colossians and what Paul warned them to stop doing - putting Jewish customs on top of grace...)

(Touch the flannel board) Samson thought he was so smart. You saw how he liked to try to prove how smart he was with his riddles.

The problem with pride is that it is a sure-way to your downfall.

When you roll your eyes at someone, thinking you're simply smarter than them.

When you talk down to someone about something they believe or even a cultural norm for their family, just because it's different than yours, when you hold your nose up and think "Well, that's dumb" be careful my friend. Be very careful. That pride is a slippery slope.

There are many scriptures that show us that we can be deceived.

There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth. ¹³ There are those—how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift!

In pride, people say to God "We don't need you. We are just fine without you."

But the truth is that you can not be good without God.

There's this desire in the human heart to be one of "the good people."

We've seen this played out in the media and social media. Everyone does it. We all assume that we are one of the good people. Especially now. People in culture are constantly trying to appear better than someone else. They do this with actions they take, things they say or don't say - things they will post or not post. Many people feel they become good by doing or not doing certain things. But...

Scripture tells us that "No one is good. No not one."

"All have sinned and fallen short of God's standard. But praise be to God who sent Jesus ..."

Scripture says... Pride comes before a fall.

You see, You can be in church every week and yet have a sin habit - a habit in which you ignore God's voice and honestly you've been ignoring God's voice for so long, you're starting to not hear it anymore. I have good news for you! God can heal you, forgive you and you'll hear His voice again!

Ps 65 says He'll wash your heart white as snow.

In pride, we say "We don't need help from anyone." This is a lack of wisdom.

NFL winning legendary coach Bill Belichick is the only coach in the NFL to have a Character Coach on staff. Heres what the Character Coach, Jack Easterby says regarding our character and development as a Christ-follower.

When I coach the NFL players you have to undertake that 8 out of 10 go bankrupt within 5 years of leaving the nfl. So I make sure they understand the impact of their choices. We are not born winners and loser but we are born choosers. The choices you make make you. So I coach them how to make better, like long term choices."

What I see in not just NFL players but also Christians around the world is a lack of evaluating every nook and cranny of our lives. Many people only evaluate and do self reflection of certain areas of their life. Character can't be put in only one area of your life. What happens so often is people are celebrated for what they do well. You really need to be self reflective and take a deep dive into every nook and cranny of your heart in every area of your life. Sometimes there's a scandal or addiction that happens later in life but it's all a result of not doing honest reflection with other Christians. If you don't do that, something blows up and you sabotage all the people you are supposed to be leading, starting with your family. We must take a thorough look at every area, eye

contact, habits, body language, tone, are we condescending or kind, all of this which requires the help of others.”

Jack is talking about the value of wisdom - receiving correction, noticing when we are not restraining our desires, being teachable and shapable.

[Everyone is like Samson in a way. All of us have found ourselves restrained by bands of sin, unable to get free.](#)

We all fight the temptation to sin and be our own man and find our *own* way. Even the Apostle Paul goes says that it's only by grace that he was saved - that HE was the chief sinner! It's important that you know ...

For God to forgive you and set you free from these bands of sin, you've got to admit that you have sin. You've got to be willing to admit that you need forgiven and set free!

Did you know that God has made people like myself, your Life Group Leaders, your board, your parents for some of you, we all “toil” and work to help make you mature - the person God wants you to be.

Col 1:28 says

“Jesus we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”

With all God's energy within me today, I am warning you

Ask God for wisdom!

Stay away from sexual sin!

Be careful of what you're watching on your phone!

Jesus said “If your eye causes you to sin, then pluck it out. Better you enter heaven without an eye than your whole body suffer in hell.”

That sounds intense but that's the truth. You have to take sin seriously because God does. God sent Jesus to die for the sins that some of you are entertaining.

Don't tell Jesus that His death didn't matter.

Don't trample on the blood of Jesus.

Come to Him and repent tonight and let God renew your mind.