

**SAMSON—3**  
**SMALL STEPS TOWARD BIG DESTRUCTION**

Strong man—weak will: I want it. I deserve it. I can handle it.  
Satan loves to make strong men weak. God makes weak men strong.

Emotion driven not spirit led. Anger/Pride: Main Character!  
Need drive you to God—meet your deepest need.  
Thirsty: Cried out to God!

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*19 Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi. 20 Samson led Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines. Judg 15:19-20*

Right track! 20 years of peace, prosperity, relative freedom.  
Looks like he put his problems behind him. Ignored, Covered.

Eyes gouged out, laughing stock! How did he go from \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_?

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- **SAMSON DIDN'T RUIN HIS LIFE ALL AT ONCE. HE RUINED IT ONE STEP AT A TIME.**

*One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. 2 The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, "At dawn we'll kill him." Judges 16:1-2*

One day—David and Bathsheba

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Gaza—Philistine headquarters, Public enemy #1.  
Gaza is 25 miles from Samson's home town Zorah.

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Stupid enough to risk so much for a quick hit?  
Countless men do it every day.

25 miles: 56,250 steps  
Sexual addiction, Bankruptcy, Affair

**SAMSON'S SMALL STEPS**  
**TOWARD HIS BIG DESTRUCTION**

**1) SAMSON TAUNTED HIS ENEMY.**

*3 But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. Judg 16:3*

Main entrance \* 700 lb. doors \* Destroying symbol of security

As men, we often underestimate our enemy!  
Lion—seeking someone to devour.  
3 legged cat!

Girlfriend stay, Go to the bar, Look at site, Smoke weed.

*So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*  
1 Cor. 10:12

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**2) SAMSON RATIONALIZED THE SAME OLD SIN.**

*4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. Judges 16:4 (Del—love someone 2nite.)*

No big deal, Just looking, Not going to hurt anyone, No one else's biz  
If she would, I wouldn't, Work hard, I deserve it.

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*5 The rulers of the Philistines went to (Delilah) 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..." Judges 16:5*

6-14, 7 fresh straps \* New ropes \* 7 braids hair fabric & tighten w/pin.

*15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." 16 With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. Judges 16:15-16*

Strong enough kill 1000 men, lion, 700 lb door—Not to lead woman.  
*17 So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."* Judges 16:17

*19 Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.* Judges 16:19

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### 3) **SAMSON ASSUMED HIS DISOBEDIENCE WOULD NEVER COST HIM.**

*20 Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. 21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison.*

Samson didn't ruin his life all at once. He ruined it one step at a time.

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#### • **WHERE ARE YOU STEPPING AWAY FROM GOD?**

Undisciplined life, anger, pride, lust, greed, gambling, addiction, passivity, workaholism, lying, Hair is long—heart drifted!

You are only as strong as you are honest!

Turn around.

*22 But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.*

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Just because he's down, doesn't mean he's out.  
Courage to turn around!

#### Extra Material

*3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; 4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. 6 She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not. 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. 8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, 9 lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel, 10 lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house. 11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.* Prov 5:3-11

*12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.* 1 Cor 10:12-13

What's the #1 thing that could take you out? Recurring challenge?  
I have a problem with:

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First step to overcoming a problem is to admit you have a problem.  
God's strength is made perfect in your weakness!

-----First wife said, You don't really love me. Delilah is going to say, How can you say I love you? Involved with 3 women that we know of—all Philistines. All got him into trouble.

*As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.* Prov 26:11

Lost site of the man he was created to be!