

SAMSON—4 FAILING FORWARD

Imagine: Angel announces birth, Set apart, Strength
Shackled, Hollowed eyes—Hair, Shamed.
Grinding in prison, entertainment.

What do you do when you know you've blown it?
Wasted opportunities. Said things you shouldn't. Done things.

Women get value from relationships: Hug and cry.
Men more often: accomplishments, achievements, conquer, win!

- **A MAN'S GREATEST FEAR IS FAILURE AND GREATEST PAIN IS REGRET.**
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Betrayed wife affair	Not married—could have been.
Wife catches you porn.	Paycheck to paycheck—never get ahead.
Devastated when kids	Miserable flat marriage—sake of kids
Broken promises/do, God	By this age, more, diff, better—failure.

SAMSON'S STORY SHOWS US

Just because you failed at something doesn't mean you're a failure.

- **A FAILURE IS AN EVENT, NEVER A PERSON.**

23 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." 24 When the people saw (Samson), 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." 25 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. Judges 16:23-25

Temple: most holy spot Phil territory: sacrifices 2 God harvest, Dagon

TWO RESPONSES TO FAILURE

- **THE NATURAL RESPONSE IS REMORSE.**
- **THE BETTER RESPONSE IS REPENTANCE.**

Remorse: Feel bad. Horrible person. Got caught.
Blame: Delilah's fault, seductive, nagging
Didn't want chosen, ask for strength.

Repentance: I'm sorry. My fault. God entrusted me. Blew it.
Didn't take vow seriously. Wanted it. Deserve it.
Handle it. Anger. Pride. Took steps.

Can't unsin—you can only repent.

~ Can't unsleep with the person you slept with.
~ Can't undo the bad deal you did.
~ Can't undo what you looked at, what you said, what you did.

Remorse is looking backward. Repentance is moving forward
Don't let past failures limit future opportunities.

Remembers—Deliver people. Spirit stirred. Strength. Hair.
Not feel sorry for myself. Can't change the past. Can change future.

All in—whatever I have left—glory of God.
Steps across a line! Not about me. All about God.

...When they stood him among the pillars. 26 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..." 28 Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "O Sovereign Lord, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more..." Judges 16:25b-26, 28

I'm different. 1 chance, don't need 2.

Once in his life—not about him—all about God!

WHEN A MAN IS DOWN, HE'S NOT OUT!

- **EVEN IN OUR FAILURES, GOD CAN STILL ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES.**

29 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, 30 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 16:29-30

Never too late to do what God wants you to do.
You may be down—not out!

For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again.
Prov 24:16

Today, I'm pushing down the pillars...
Pride, anger, lust, greed, comparison, regrets, fear of failure!

MOVING FORWARD

1) WHAT PILLARS ARE YOU PUSHING DOWN?

2) HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT?

Samson did what was right—easy! Gave his life one time.
You're going to do is harder—not once, daily!

Paul said I die daily.

World has yet to see...

Unfortunately, it took Samson a long time to figure out.

Most of us are more like Samson. Strong on the outside—glaring weakness on the inside.

Push down pillars and walk out of pile of regret.

It's not enough to win the public battles but you have to win the private ones!

Just as God gave Samson supernatural physical strength—he can give you supernatural spiritual strength!

For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again.

Prov 24:16

19 A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all. Ps 34:19

If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; 24 though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. Ps 37:23-24

8 Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light. 9 Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the Lord's wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness. 10 Then my enemy will see it and will be covered with shame, she who said to me, "Where is the Lord your God?" My eyes will see her downfall; even now she will be trampled underfoot like mire in the streets. Mic 7:8-11

Caught cheating... shop lifting...

Caught in a lie, secret life going on, DUI, affair.

Doing something—if someone else found out—really bad.

All going to fail. Our worst fear shouldn't be failure but succeeding at things that don't matter.

How many bad things can you do before God can't use you?
Can you lie? Cheat? Steal? Get drunk? Murder? How far can you go?

No one knows? Because no one has done so much
then turned to God and had God reject them.

Jesus pushed down pillars. Anyone who will come to him.

You don't have to die in your sins.

With his strength, I'm dying to my regrets, past. Crucified with Christ. All about your purpose. Dying to... Going forward.

One of the most frustrating characters in the Bible.

Not a great hero. Not a happy ending.

- **WHO IS THE REAL HERO IN THIS STORY? GOD.**

If we are faithless, [God] will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself. 2 Tim 2:13

Samson came to God shackled. He came to God broken.

He came to God blind. When he turned to God. God was there.

If you come to God shackled, broken, and blind. God will be there 4u.

2 cor 7:10

Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Micah 7:8