



## The Sanctified Life

The following story takes place in the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC. After the Jews were delivered from bondage in Egypt and conquered the promised land people called judges were appointed by God to rule the nation for a season. A judge was used by God to unite the tribes of Israel, lead the nation to submit to the law of Moses, and deliver the nation from their enemies. The period of the judges in Israel lasted 450 years according to Paul in Acts 13:20. There were 15 judges before the first King was appointed by God. One of those judges was named Samson. Samson was number 13. He was a judge for 20 years. Here is the account of His birth.

### Judges 13:1-5

1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. 5 For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

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In order to fulfill His purpose for sanctifying Samson the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon Samson.

### Judges 13:24-25

24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

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The word sanctified is used in both the old and new testaments. The word means to set apart. The word is used to describe both God's work and the work of man.

How was Samson sanctified by God?

1. He was chosen by God before He was born
2. His birth was miraculous
3. He was set apart to live differently than the other Jews
4. His purpose was to lead others to freedom from slavery
5. He was anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to fulfill His purpose

How are those of us who are in Christ sanctified like Samson?

1. We are chosen by God before we are born (Eph. 1:4)
2. Our birth is miraculous (John 3:5-6)
3. We are set apart to live differently than the world around us (1 Thess. 5:23)
4. Our purpose is to lead others to freedom from slavery (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
5. We are anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to fulfill our purpose (Acts 1:8)

Because of a choice that Samson made at the end of his life, Samson is listed in the hall of fame of faith in Hebrews 11. Throughout the course of his life, the Lord used Samson to accomplish some of His purposes in spite of Samson.

But the story of Samson's life is a tragedy. His life is marked by...

Lust

Deception

Broken Relationships

Physical hardships due to poor choices

Bondage

The tragedies in Samson's life are the same tragedies that so many are experiencing in the church.

Lust

Deception

Broken Relationships

Physical hardships due to poor choices

Bondage

There were something missing in his relationship with God that created this tragedy even though Samson was sanctified by God.

What was missing in Samson's relationship with God?

At the end of His life Samson is used by God to fulfill God's purpose. But even then Samson's motive was all about Samson.

Judges 16:28-29

28 Then Samson called to the Lord, saying, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"

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He prayed that God would use him defeat the enemies of Israel as vengeance for what they had done to him.

What was missing in Samson's life was that he never came to a point in his life in which his life was all about God.

Samson never surrendered himself to God no matter the cost!

Samson was sanctified by God. Samson never sanctified himself to God.

What was missing in Samson's relationship with God is also missing in the lives of so many that call Jesus their savior?

1 Peter 3:15

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

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The Apostle Paul recognized this need in the church so he said in Romans 12:1-2

Rom 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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Will you present your body to God no matter the cost? It is your reasonable service.

Why?

God's Son died for your sin before you were born. (Romans 5:8)

God knew you before you were born. (Psalm 139:13-16)

God gave you your life. (Col. 1:16)

God chose you to be His child. (Eph. 1:4-6)

God's Spirit convicted you of your sin. (John 6:44)

God's Spirit convinced you to believe in Him. (1 Cor. 2:10)

God forgave your sins. (Eph. 1:7)

God gave you the righteousness of Christ. (2 Cor. 5:21)

God calls you His child. (John 1:12)

God calls you holy one. (Romans 1:7)

God made you an heir to all that is Christ's. (Romans 8:16-17)

God made you the temple of His Spirit. (1 Cor. 6:19)

God made you a new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17)

God made you a partaker of His divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4)

God gave you His mind. (1 Cor. 2:16)

God enabled you to bear His fruit. (John 15:5; Gal. 5:22)

God gave you spiritual gifts that make you a significant member of His church. (Romans 12:6-8)

God made you a part of a holy nation and His kingdom. (Mark 1:14-15; 1 Peter 2:9)  
God seated you with Christ in heavenly places. (Eph. 2:5-6)  
God made you a royal priest in His family. (1 Peter 2:9)  
God gave you eternal life. (John 3:14-15)  
God is preparing a place for you in heaven. (John 14:1-3)  
God will raise you from the dead (1 Cor. 15:50-57).....

All of this is the result of Jesus Christ and.....

God's GRACE!

You did not deserve any of this.

The only reasonable conclusion I can make about Samson is that He did not understand He was the recipient of God's grace.

It is your reasonable service to follow Jesus no matter what the cost because of the debt of love that we owe Jesus.

It is your reasonable service to follow Jesus not matter what the cost because to do anything less is to betray your new identity in Him.

Will you be like Samson or will you follow Jesus no matter the cost?

Invitation

- Receive Jesus as your savior
- Follow Jesus no matter the cost

