

# GREG'S NOTES

## A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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### WASTED POTENTIAL OF A WORLD CHANGER

Judges 16

We are going to look at a person who had an amazing beginning but not a great ending. In fact, I am even a little bit surprised that he made it into the Heroes' Hall of Faith of Hebrews 11. His name is just mentioned among other names. Samson. He is included even after his colossal failure. He was a mighty man, and for a time a mighty man of God and a world changer. But in time, he let the world change him as he turned his back on God. He had an amazing beginning and a tragic ending.

#### PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **Samson had a great beginning.** He had super-human qualities. Physically there was none stronger. He was a one-man army. On one occasion, he killed 1,000 Philistine warriors on the battlefield with the bone that he picked up off the ground. Not a sword or a spear. A bone. God's Spirit was on Samson during this dark time in Israel's history. He was the real deal.
2. **Temptation comes in attractive packages.** When the devil brings temptation it's always attractive. He may be wicked, but he is not stupid. He knows what he's doing. He knows how to package his wares. He knows how to sell his stuff. And he knows how to direct market to you. He knows your weaknesses and what you are drawn to.
3. **For temptation to succeed, we must be a willing participant.** For temptation to succeed there must be desire on our part. James 1:14–15 says, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it's full-grown, brings forth death" (NKJV). For Satan to succeed, we must listen, yield, and desire what he's offering.
4. **Moral compromise always makes us vulnerable.** If Samson were not having a sinful relationship with Delilah, he wouldn't have been in the mess he was in. Day after day, Delilah nagged Samson until he couldn't stand it and he finally revealed the secret of his strength. As a result, his hair was shaved, his eyes put out, the Philistines captured him, and the Lord left him.

#### RELEVANT REMINDERS

- It's not a sin to be tempted. The sin is giving into the temptation.
- Anyone who asks you to compromise your principles as a believer to prove your love does not really love you.
- It is not enough to just know what is right or even to be used by God for a time. You need to finish the race.

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### APPLICABLE ACTIONS

In the Old Testament, in the old covenant, when God would speak to a person, it was different than how it is in the new covenant in our relationship with God. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God might come upon a person. God might speak to a person. But in this case, the Lord left Samson. The good news is when you're a Christian, Jesus says "I will never ever leave you or forsake you." God will never leave you, no matter what you have done. You can abandon Him, but He will never abandon you.