

## “When My ‘Strengths’ Can Get Me in Trouble”

Experiencing All the Goodness that God Has for Me

Doug Holmes (twitter: @dougholmesclc)

Website: [www.ChristianLifeChurchFL.com](http://www.ChristianLifeChurchFL.com)

FaceBook: [www.FaceBook.com/ChristianLifeChurchFL](http://www.FaceBook.com/ChristianLifeChurchFL)

May 6, 2018

Judges 13:1-25 – *The Israelites did evil... the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.*

...Manoah... had a wife who was sterile... The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, “... you are going to conceive and have a son... set apart to God... and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

...The woman... named him Samson... the LORD blessed him, and the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him...

Judges 14:1-20 – *Samson... saw there a young Philistine woman... His father and mother replied, “...Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?”*

...(His parents did not know that this was from the LORD, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines...)

...The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands...

“Tell us your riddle,” they said. “Let’s hear it.”

...they said to Samson’s wife, “Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us...”

Then Samson’s wife threw herself on him, sobbing, “You hate me! You don’t really love me... you haven’t told me the answer.”

“I haven’t even explained it to my father or mother...”

She cried... So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people.

...Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power... struck down thirty of their men...

Judges 15:14-15 – *The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power... bindings dropped from his hands. Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.*

Judges 16:1-4,15-30 – *One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. The people of Gaza were told, “Samson is here! ...At dawn we’ll kill him.”*

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... and carried them to the top of the hill...

Some time later, he fell in love with a woman...whose name was Delilah... Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me...?” With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death.

So he told her everything... Having put him to sleep on her lap, she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair... And his strength left him.

...Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him... they set him to grinding in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again...

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.” ...While they

were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.”

...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.” ...all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand... Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “...remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more...” 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.

### ➤ Strengths/Gifts Aren’t God’s Endorsement of Character

Romans 11:29 – *God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable.*

### ➤ Strengths Can Flip to the “Dark Side” Too Often

Confident	<u>Arrogant</u>
Brave Risk-Taker	<u>Impulsive Fool</u>
Assertive Persuader	Over-bearing “ <u>Marketer</u> ”
Determined	<u>Stubborn</u>
Leader	Dictatorial <u>Tyrant</u>
Empathetic	<u>Emotional Wreck</u>
Compliant Team-Player	Gullible <u>Pawn</u>
Loyal	Accessory to <u>Evil</u>
Care-Giving Rescuer	Dependency-Building <u>Enabler</u>

### Strengths Can Become Weaknesses When:

#### ➤ They Are Not Yielded to God

Romans 12:1 – *...offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.*

#### ➤ Truth-Telling/Truth Hearing Isn’t Active & Respected

Proverbs 9:8-9;12:15 – *Rebuke a wise man... he will love you... he will be wiser still... A fool thinks he needs no advice...*

#### ➤ Blind-Spots Are Ignored

#### ➤ Negative Patterns Go On Unaddressed

#### ➤ SO, Weaknesses Become Strengths If Yielded to God

2 Corinthians 12:9 – *“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.*

Strong-Willed

Determined Leader

### Next Week @ CLC with Doug Holmes:

### “How God Provides – Financial Stability”

Suggested Prayer: “Loving Father God, Thank You for ‘fearfully & wonderfully’ making me the way You have –with strengths & weaknesses. Help me to always yield them to You as I continue to grow in my relationship with You through Jesus Christ, my Lord & Savior Who lives & reigns with You & the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.”