

## Growing Again

*Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.*

*Judges 16:22*

Samson is one of those enigmatic figures of the Bible. The exploits of his life can be an inspiration, while his sinful waywardness and disobedience stand as a warning to all. He is one of the Biblical characters who is known even by the non-Christian community. The reputation of his great physical strength that supposedly emanated from his long hair set him apart as one of the heroes of the Old Testament. Samson's birth was unique in that it was announced by the angels. His parents were instructed that he was to be a Nazarite and that no razor was to touch his head. He was given the name Samson which means "like the sun" and his life was to shine for God's glory. His strength was not his own but derived from his obedience to the Nazarite vow. Despite Samson's poor choices, God was faithful and used him to combat the enemies of Israel. Samson crossed the line of God's patience when he divulged the secret of his strength. The Nazarite vow was broken when Delilah cut his hair and God's strength departed, which led to persecution from his enemies. In his humiliation, Samson realized how far he had strayed from his commitment to God. But the faithfulness of God rises above His servant's unfaithfulness and Samson's hair begins to grow again. Samson regains the Lord's power for one final act against the Philistines.

The life of Samson provides many spiritual lessons for us either to emulate or to avoid. He had the confidence to face his enemies, but eventually, he relied on his own strength which led to his downfall. His lack of restraint with His passions led the strong man to a point of utter weakness. Even after Delilah revealed her true nature, Samson eventually disclosed his source of strength and surrendered his Nazarite commitment. In this dark situation, the Lord shines His grace. Samson's hair begins to grow again and God renews Samson's strength to defeat the Philistines.

Prayerfully, we will never stray as far as Samson did, but all of us have had times of unfaithfulness. Usually, these times of disobedience lead to further decline. One bad choice leads to another bad choice, and eventually, we find ourselves captive to the adversary. Fortunately, our God is True and Faithful, and His faithfulness far exceeds our own. He promises if we draw close to Him, He will draw close to us in return.

Today, if we find ourselves defeated, and it seems insurmountable to regain any spiritual strength, just remember that Samson's hair did begin to grow again. - J Ekis