



## Spiritual Decline

By Shannon Ford on April 15, 2024

**TODAY'S READING:** Judges 14

Few accounts in the Bible are as tragic as Samson's life. As judge, God gave Samson a special empowerment of the Holy Spirit that allowed him to be victorious in military battles. God called Samson to surrender and take the Nazarite vow. This vow included not cutting his hair, not drinking strong drink, and not touching a dead body. How tragic it is when God gives someone a great opportunity to serve Him, and he or she treats it lightly. Samson's sins are apparent in chapter 14 as Samson disrespects his parents and violates the Nazarite vow.

Evidence of Samson's spiritual decline can first be seen in the way he treated his parents. Samson went down (verse 1) into enemy territory and fell in love with a pagan woman. He then "tells" his parents, instead of "asking," to go get her for she pleased me. Samson's problem was that he wanted his own way. Whatever pleased him was the most important thing, and he demanded that his parents obey him. Christian young people need to stop and consider when they disrespect and disobey godly parents who know God's Word. The result of their actions usually leads to sin.

As a Nazarite, Samson was supposed to live in a way that honored God, but that did not seem to be his concern. A Nazarite was not to touch or even go near a dead body (Numbers 6:1-9). Samson ate honey from the carcass of a dead lion and even made a joke (riddle) out of his direct violation of the Nazarite vow.

Samson was someone who had the power to conquer and kill others, but he did not have the power to conquer himself and put to death the passions of the flesh. Instead of leading the nation of Israel in a way that honored God, Samson will forever be remembered for what he destroyed, not for what he built. What a wasted life.

**PRAYER:** Lord, we all have one life to live. Help us not to waste it on the things of this world and its fleshly desires. Help us to live by power of the Holy Spirit and kill the sinful appetites within us that want to control us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** 1 Samuel 10

*Copyright © 2024 First Baptist Church, Fort Mill, SC, All rights reserved.*

[Visit our website](#)

First Baptist Church | (803)547-2051 | 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715 | fbcfm.com

First Baptist Church Fort Mill | 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715

[Unsubscribe nfinch@fbcfm.com](mailto:nfinch@fbcfm.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by fbc@firstbaptistchurchfortmill.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!