

Maintaining My Spiritual Strength

Pastor's Message

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Eph. 6:10 NIV

1. Self-indulgence weakens my life

Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. ² When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife." ³ His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me." Judges 14:1-3 NIV

A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Gal. 6:7-8 NIV

Arm yourselves with the same attitude [as Christ]...Do not live the rest of your earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. 1 Pet. 4:1-2 NIV

2. Bitterness weakens my life

Samson said, "I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them."... I swear that I won't stop until I get my revenge on you"... He said, "I merely did to them what they did to me." Judges 15:3, 7, 11 NIV

He went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, ⁵ lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves. Judges 15:4-5 NIV

Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm. Prov. 29:11 NIV

3. Carelessness weakens my life

Some time later, he fell in love with a woman...whose name was Delilah. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him" ... So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man." Judges 16:4-5, 17 NIV

Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

Judges 16:21 NIV