

DAY 20 | STRENGTHEN ME ONCE MORE

Written by Steven Stewart

**“Then Samson called to the LORD: ‘Lord GOD, please remember me. Strengthen me, God, just once more.’”
Judges 16:28**

Samson was set apart for the Lord before he was even born. God gave him an incredible calling, empowered him by His Spirit, and used him to begin delivering Israel from the Philistines. Yet Samson continually played with compromise. Little by little, he allowed his desires, pride, and sin to pull him away from the life God had called him to live.

By Judges 16, Samson seems convinced he can stay close to the edge without falling over. Delilah repeatedly asks about the source of his strength, and each time, Samson inches closer to revealing the truth. Eventually, he gives it all away. Scripture then records one of the saddest statements in Samson’s story: ***“He did not know that the LORD had left him.”***

Compromise often works that way. It does not always come through a massive act of rebellion. Sometimes it happens slowly. We become comfortable with what we once resisted. Conviction grows quieter. Prayer becomes less important. Before long, we can find ourselves much farther from the Lord than we ever intended to be. But Samson’s story does not end there.

Broken, blinded, and humiliated, Samson finally cries out, ***“Lord GOD, please remember me. Strengthen me, God, just once more.”*** The man who had spent so much of his life relying on himself finally recognized where his strength had always come from. In his weakness, he turned back to the Lord.

As we fast together, we have an opportunity to examine where we have become spiritually comfortable. Fasting reminds us that we are dependent on God. It removes something we regularly reach for and creates space for us to reach for Him instead.

During these past 19 days, where have you been relying on yourself instead of the Lord? Is there an area where compromise has slowly become comfortable? Ask the Lord to expose it, surrender it to Him, and let Samson’s prayer become the cry of your own heart: ***“Strengthen me once more!”***