

Messed Up

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and My Strength Is Gone

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Judges 16:19-28, 31

Judges 13:2

A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth.

Judges 13:3

The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, “You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son.

Judges 13:4

Now see to it that you drink no wine
or other fermented drink and that you
do not eat anything unclean.

Judges 13:5

You will become pregnant and have a son whose **head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb.** He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

**1. Moral weakness will sap
my strength.**

Judges 16:19-20

Judges 16:19

After putting him to sleep **on her lap**,
she called for someone to **shave off**
the seven braids of his hair, and so
began to subdue him. And
his strength left him.

Judges 16:20

Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.”

But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

2 Samuel 11:2

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,

2 Samuel 11:3

and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the **wife** of Uriah the Hittite.”

2 Samuel 11:4-5

Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and **he slept with her**. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, **“I am pregnant.”**

2 Samuel 11:27

After the time of mourning was over,
David had her brought to his house,
and she became his wife and bore him
a son. **But the thing David had done
displeased the LORD.**

2. **Intoxicating spirits** in my
body will **sap** my strength.

Judges 16:25-27

Judges 16:25

While they were in **high spirits**, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to **entertain** us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he **performed** for them. When they stood him among the pillars,

Judges 16:26

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.”

Judges 16:27

Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about 3,000 men and women watching Samson perform.

Proverbs 23:33-34

Your eyes will see **strange sights**,
and your mind will imagine
confusing things. ³⁴ You will be like one
sleeping on the high seas, lying on top
of the rigging.

Proverbs 23:35

“They hit me,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt! They beat me, but I don’t feel it! **When will I wake up so I can find another drink?”**

**3. Fessing Up to Jesus will
give me strength.**

Judges 16:28

Judges 16:28

Then Samson **prayed to the LORD,**
“Sovereign LORD, remember me.
Please, God, strengthen me just
once more, and let me with
one blow get revenge on the
Philistines for my two eyes.”

1 John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:10

If we claim we have not sinned,
we make him out to be a liar
and his word is not in us.

4. Family ties can give me strength.

Judges 16:31

Judges 16:31

Then his brothers and his father's
whole family went down to get him.

They brought him back and buried him
between Zorah and Eshtaol in the
tomb of Manoah his father. He had led
Israel twenty years.

Luke 15:20

So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still **a long way off,**
his father saw him and was filled
with compassion for him; he ran to
his son, threw his arms around him
and kissed him.

Luke 15:21

“The son said to him, ‘**Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.** I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

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1. **Moral weakness** will **sap** my strength.
2. **Intoxicating spirits** in my body will **sap** my strength.

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3. **Fessing Up to Jesus** will
give me strength.

4. Family ties can **give** me
strength.

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Greater is He that is IN me
than all my mess ups.