



GRACE FELLOWSHIP OF MOREHEAD, KY
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Probably one of the most asked questions that people like to ask, in a spiritual context, is, “Why do bad things happen to good people.”

There are so many ways to answer this questions:

- 1.) Sin in this world.
- 2.) “Good people” is an objective concept in our world. Some of the best people many people know are people who are caught up in sin.
- 3.) Sometimes good people do dumb things.
- 4.) We could even take a quick look at the fact that battles and persecutions come for the Word’s sake. Bad things come to try and move you off your stand on the Word of God...or even your commitment to the things of God.

I do want to take a look at another area of why bad things happen today.

Judges 13:1-5

- 1 And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.
- 2 And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not.
- 3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.
- 4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:
- 5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: ***for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb***: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

OF COURSE: This is the story of Samson.

His mom was barren and wanted a son. God showed up and said they would be given a son, but he must be a Nazarite (vow) from his birth.

REMEMBER: A Nazarite Vow could be taken for a short season of life or for life.

- Samson, Samuel and John the Baptist did it for life.
- Apostle Paul did it for a short time.

The Nazarite Vow simply represented a COMPLETE CONSECRATION to the Lord...all the way!

Three parts of the Nazarite Vow:

- 1.) They can’t drink any strong wine...at all.
Symbolizes their pleasure is in God alone.
- 2.) They can’t touch any dead things...not even family at a funeral.
Symbolizes purity.
- 3.) They can’t cut their hair...ever, ever, ever!

BASICALLY: Cutting the hair symbolized that their VOW and CONSECRATION was over.

The hair was a symbol of the vow (crazy hair)...which would mean that the further they got into it, the MORE it would be apparent to everyone.

QUICK QUESTION: The further you get in your walk with God...it is more obvious to others or less obvious? Hmmm.

HERE IS THE POINT: Judges 13:24,25

- 24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and ***the LORD blessed him.***
 25 And ***the Spirit of the LORD began to move him*** at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Some of the accounts that are given of Samson, and his strength, are crazy.

- Tied foxes tails of three hundred foxes together/caught them on fire and burned the Philistines crops.
- Killed a thousand Philistines with a jawbone of a donkey.
- God was using Samson to deliver His people from the Philistines control.

There is NO DOUBT that God used Samson.
There is NO DOUBT God's hand was upon Samson.
There is NO DOUBT that Samson was consecrated to God.

HOWEVER: Little by little he opened himself up to the enemy.

Judges 14:8,9

- 8 And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the ***carcase of the lion:*** and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the ***carcase of the lion.***
 9 And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but ***he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.***

NOTE: He wasn't suppose to touch any dead thing!
 He did anyway...because he was hungry.

Judges 14:10 – “So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do.”

NOTE: This is his bachelor party...the feast is actually translated a drinking feast.

UNDERSTAND: He couldn't drink...but guess what? He surrounded himself with 30 men who didn't have that purpose...he gave in.

1 Corinthians 15:33 – “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”

NOTICE: He started doing things that were spiritually wrong for him.

ALSO NOTICE: God kept using him, because of the call on his life.

THEREFORE: He assumed he was strong enough in the flesh...talented enough in the flesh to NOT have to be consecrated and still be used.

WOW...if this doesn't explain SO MUCH of the church world today.

- I can do these sinful things and still be used by God.
- I don't have to tithe and God will still love me.
- I don't have to go to church and I will still be a strong Christian.

Once you start that slippery slope...it is really hard to stop.

Judges 16:1 – “Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.”

Then Delilah came! Yikes!

Judges 16:19-21

- 19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.
 20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.
 21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

YA: You can't cut your hair! He lost it all!

Do you think Samson sat in his blindness trying to figure out why this bad thing had come upon him?
Probably not!
Yet we can act so surprised.

Samson started SO STRONG! SO DYNAMIC! SO BLESSED!
But he kept allowing the world around him to DULL him spiritually.
To weaken him.

He used to be SO SHARP...but bit by bit he became DULL.
It didn't happen overnight...it was just a CONTINUOUS ignoring of doing what he was supposed to do to stay SHARP!

Staying Sharp

BELOVED: Our number one job in life is to stay SHARP in our Christian walk.

Because the enemy wants to DULL us.

Romans 12:2 (PHILIPS) – “Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.”

Our SHARP hearing becomes DULL.
Our SHARP obedience becomes DUL.
We just get sloppy in our walk with God...because we can do it on our own...we know how to do it.

BELOVED: It is OUR JOB to stay SHARP!

Scriptures tells us that the upright is sharp.

1 Peter 5:8 – “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Don't let DULLNESS get a hold of you.

Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NASB) – “If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of bringing success.”
You will wear yourself out if you don't stay SHARP!

Look at these Scriptures:

Hebrews 5:11-12

- 11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are *dull of hearing*.
- 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Hebrews 6:12 (NLT) – “*Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent.* Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.”

Matthew 13:14-15

- 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:
- 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”

1 Corinthians 2:14 – “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

When you get SPIRITUALLY DULL, all you are left with is your natural man...which is NOT ENOUGH!
We must stay SPIRITUALLY SHARP!

How to Stay Spiritually SHARP!

NOTE: There may be several things that we could put in this list...but the Bible is very clear about a few things that will keep you sharp and KEEP YOUR EDGE.

1.) The Word!

Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

BELOVED: Get in the Word! Stay in the Word!
It is the Truth you know that will make you free.

Don't be dull of hearing...stay sharp in the Word.

2.) That Word in Your Mouth

Isaiah 49:2 (NASB) – “He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also made Me a sharpened arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver.”

NOTE: This is a prophetic verse regarding Jesus...and His mouth.
His mouth was always sharp...what He spoke happened.

Mark 11:22-25

Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”

What are you allowing in your life because you can't control your mouth.
Because you are not keeping your words sharp!

3.) The crowd you hang around!

Proverbs 27:17 (NASB) – “As iron sharpens iron, So one person sharpens another.”

Just like Samson hanging out with 30 Philistines started him down a path to dullness...who you hang out with or DON'T hang out with will do the same to you.
If you want to GROW SHARPER you need to be around those who are SHARP.

grow together = be together

When the enemy can convince you to stay home from church...from those that God has connected you to...you will NEVER get sharper from that, but always duller.

YOU SAY: But my wife is a CHRISTIAN. I am sure she is...but you are both getting duller...

When you are around other sharp people...you get sharper. They challenge you...they correct you...they help keep you in line (speak truth in love).

Proverbs 12:1 (NASB) – “One who loves discipline loves knowledge, But one who hates rebuke is stupid.”

Proverbs 15:32 – “He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.”

People can get upset when Pastor preaches on something or says something that STINGS...that is called FRICTION, it is an important part of sharpening!

AVOID ISOLATION: Walking alone will lead to spiritual dullness.

Proverbs 18:1 (AMP) – “HE WHO willfully separates and estranges himself [from God and man] seeks his own desire and pretext to break out against all wise and sound judgment.”

When you separate yourself...you become susceptible to self-deception.

Hebrews 3:13 – “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.
10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.
11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?
12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Hebrews 10:24-25

- 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Conclusion

Judges 16:22 – “Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.”
Samson’s story wasn’t done.

Neither is yours!

