



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you February 2024 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Samson: The weakness of the strong".

The story of Samson makes an interesting reading in the Bible and contains many lessons for Christians in every generation. He was the last of twelve judges (eleven men and one woman) who led Israel over a period of 350 years; a period characterized by intervals and cycles of rebellion, retribution, repentance, restoration and rest. Samson's leadership was associated with the last of these cycles. He ruled before Samuel. He was raised up to deliver Israelites from Philistines' oppression. Unbiased appraisal of his life revealed a mixed grill of good and bad. On the positive side, he had godly parents, supernatural birth, and gracious upbringing and received from the Lord unprecedented anointing that manifests as supernatural strength. The symbol of his distinction and the evidence of his peculiarity and divine favour was his Nazarite vow expressed through restraint from wine or any grape product, haircut and cadavers. These are the participatory condition for his perpetuity in divine blessings necessary to fulfil his mission. Samson deliberately broke each of these vows without remorse, repentance or restitution. Notwithstanding, God's power continues to move in him and through him till he reached a point of no return.

Through unbridled lust and lack of personal discipline he continues to befriend the enemies. After a failed marriage with one of the Philistine women she end up on Delilah's lap. Delilah nagged and tricked him to reveal the source of his strength and foundation of his devotion to God. His hair was shaved, God's presence departed from him and so he lost his anointing. He was blinded, tortured, humiliated and publicly ridiculed. At last he repented was restored by God, regained his strength and by it pull down stadium pillars that resulted in more deaths among the enemies than he killed in his life time.

Samson was physically strong but morally weak. His moral weakness rubbished what should have been tremendous national gains from his great anointing. He died with his enemies. Clearly the strength within is strength indeed. He could have received this from the same Spirit that equipped him for battle but he received not because he ask not. We should avoid his mistakes. Welcome!

THE BIRTH OF A DELIVERER

"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. 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.



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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. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: 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." Judges 13:1-5

Judges chapter thirteen recorded the angelic visitation and prophecy of the birth of Samson the last judge of Israel and its fulfillment. Before the visit of the angel, Israel had been under the oppression of the philistines for 40 years. The oppression was because they backslid, and had become a congregation of corrupt evil doers. Those who reject Christ's yoke and refuse to serve God will be compelled to run errands for Satan.

Philistines ruled over them Judges 15:11, but it was an oppressive reign. God in mercy decided to visit them and set in motion modalities for their deliverance. His strategy revolves around the birth and ministry of a child. He sent an angel to communicate this to a family of Dan who will be granted the privilege of the birth of the child.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Visit of an angel
2. Confirmation of promised blessing
3. Thanksgiving offering to honour the Lord

1. Visit of an angel

“And Manoah said, Now let thy words come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him? And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware. She may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.” Judges 13:12-14

In the narrative, the husband was named, the woman was not. Her husband was not with her when the angel appeared to her and announced that she was going to give birth to a son who will be a Nazarite from the womb. To prepare for his arrival she herself would live the life of a Nazarite. She must abstain from wine or any alcoholic beverage. She would not eat any forbidden food or meat. When born, the child's hair should never be cut. His ministry would be to begin the work of freeing Israel from the hands of the Philistines.

The foundation for Israel's deliverance from Philistine's oppression was laid by Samson, the task was not completed until the time of David. Others contributed too including Saul and Samuel. The kingdom of God is built in degrees and over many generations.

Some plant and reap, others plant for some others later to come and reap. We all have portions allotted to us in the work of the Lord. At some point, we begin what others will come and complete, at other moments we are able to finish what we started. The most important thing is for each one of us to know the part or portion allotted to us and fulfill it. Visitation to Manoah and his wife confirmed that God knows His people. He knows our problems and He is willing at the right time to solve them.

2. Confirmation of promised blessing

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

When Manoah heard his wife's testimony, he prayed for a confirmation. The angel again appeared to Manoah's wife and she went and called her husband. Both of them again heard him repeat his instructions concerning how to take care of their son when he is born. We need God's instruction, the scriptures and God's help to effectively train our children and make them what God wanted them to be. Training of children is God's expectation from all parents Proverbs 22:6.



3. Thanksgiving offering to the Lord

“And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the Lord. For Manoah knew not that he was an angel of the Lord.” Judges 13:16

We are not permitted to give any messenger, however anointed and gifted the honour that belongs to God. This is very important for all ministers whom God is using to reveal His mind to His people and bless them. We must never share in the glory that belongs to God for doing what God has sent us to do.



Manoah eventually took a goat and grain offering and offered it as sacrifice on a rock. Then the angel did an amazing thing. As the flame from the altar shot up towards the sky, the angel ascended in the fire. It was an indication of acceptance of their sacrifice. Manoah and his wife were so surprised that they fell on their faces most probably in reverence and worshipped God. Thus Manoah realized that the person who visited them was divine. He stated that they would die because they had seen God. This was the common belief of Jews at that time; that those who see God would die. It was born out of faulty understanding and interpretation of Exodus 33:20. His wife reminded him that if the Lord was not pleased with them and desires to kill them, He would not accept burnt offering and grain offering from their hands. No matter our experiences and manifestations or sometimes dreams that we do not understand, we should note that scripture evidence is greater. When we make choices based on the scriptures, we should be reassured that God is pleased with us. If we are still in doubt, we can seek counsel from a sanctified more matured spirit-filled believer or minister. The Lord promised that those who believe in Him would not walk in darkness John 8:12

Eventually, God's promise became fulfilled and Samson was born. As he grew up, the Spirit of God began to stir him in the direction of his commission. God blessed him. We need God's blessings today as well as the help and power of the Holy Spirit to be what God wanted us to be and to do what God ordained for us to do.



ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For February 2024

1. Thank God for His grace upon our lives that enable to live in daily victory over temptation
2. Thank God for daily frustrating all the plans of the enemies against us
3. Pray for grace for social skills and working relationship with others
4. Pray for daily victory over the strivings of the flesh and lusts
5. Pray for heaven centred affection and the crucified life
6. Pray for grace to always glorify God for all our successes and achievements
7. Pray for forgiving spirit and freedom for retaliatory tendencies
8. Pray for overwhelming anointing to achieve great things for God in our generation
9. Pray for entire consecration and total whole hearted dedication to God and His service

“ men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office at Amazing Grace House, Joy Estate, Olorunda - Abaa, Ibadan . Oyo - State. Follow us on any of our social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

SINFUL MARRIAGE OF THE MAN OF GOD



“And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.”

Judges 14:1-3

Judges chapter fourteen recorded Samson's first attempt to marry and the failure associated with the attempt. The foundation of this failure happens to be in Samson's inclination and choices.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Disregard for Nazarites' vow
2. Marital proposal to ungodly heathen woman
3. Pains of spousal betrayal

1. Disregard for Nazarites' vow

*“Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: ...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.”***Judges 14:5, 8**

People around Samson from his tender age saw that God's hand was mighty upon His life and that God was preparing him to achieve great things in the kingdom. His parent knew and he must have known too that the

preservation of his blessings and anointing revolves around his ability to keep the tenets of his Nazarite vow. His inability to do this and to observe and keep God's commandment lies at the root of his failure and tragic death. The significance of this background of Samson teaches us to know that our means and end on earth and in heaven eventually is closely linked with our ability to continuously abide in Christ, obey His words and carefully and faithfully keep to the tenets of our consecration and commitment or covenant that we made with Him on the day that He saved us from our sins and called us to commence a lifelong walk and partnership with Himself.

2. Marital proposal to ungodly heathen woman

*“...shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.”***Deuteronomy 7:3**

The first evidence of the flaws in his life and development began to show through uninspired and unrestrained wandering into Philistines' territories. During one of trips, Samson saw a woman in Timnath, a town of the philistines and desired to marry her. He informed his parents but his parents cautioned him about the fact that it was a wrong choice which clearly contradicted the commandment of God. But he insisted on having his way.

During one of his visits to Timnath before the marriage feast, Samson encountered and had to deal with a lion in Timnath's vineyard. He effortlessly tore the lion, assisted by the power of the Spirit. During another visit to Timnath, Samson found

the dead body of the lion covered with honey from a swarm of bees. He was evidently drawn to see the dead body of this lion by curiosity *“He turned aside to see it”* and took from the honey in the carcass of the animal and also gave his parents to eat. Two breaches are observable here. Nazarites are expected to keep away from products of vine as well as dead bodies. All these Samson ignored. Ignoring the commandments and warning of the word of God often would be at great cost.

During the marriage ceremony, he presented his experience in a riddle form as a bet to the young men of Philistines descent assigned to him as groom's men and lost the bet because they threatened his wife and she seduced him to force the answer out of Him. He departed in anger and his wife was married to his best man. The outcome of this should have been considered by Samson as timely warning to desist from fraternizing in enemy territory.

3. Pains of spousal betrayal

*“And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion? and he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.”***Judges 14:18-19**

Samson left the marriage feast abruptly and in anger. He was greatly disappointed and it pained him that the woman he loves and wanted to marry could so blatantly betray him to her kinsmen. He returned to his father's house. We too have in God a place of succor, comfort and renewal to return to when we contend the pains of men's betrayal and broken trust.

FAULTY METHODOLOGY OF A COMMISSIONED SERVANT

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 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." Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10

The failure of Samson lies in his choices; especially, choices or methods of executing divine commission. There was no record that Samson ever built an altar or inquired from the Lord for direction on how the Lord wanted him to go about fulfilling his assigned task. All that Samson did, he did alone, in utter disregard of precepts and pattern of operations of successful judges who ruled Israel before him. He neither learnt from the word of God nor from the wisdom and facts of history. Samson never raised an army or work with any counselor.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Self-management and carnal desires of a lone ranger
2. Irrational retaliation by offended husband
3. God's mercy towards a courageous warrior

1. Self-management and carnal desires of a lone ranger

"Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her. And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, in the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts,



and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron." Judges 16:1-3

The manner in which Samson executed his commission and his methodology was unedifying. He never raised an army or even makes use of servants or deputies, he was the typical lone ranger and one man army. God's order requires that two should work together to accomplish His task. Jesus sent them out two by two. The Lord stated that it is not good for man to be alone and that two are better than one. Even all instances of Samson's attempt at executing his commission where products of efforts to revenge personal injury or hurts done to him. Womanizing and gratification of sensual appetite took greater part of Samson's time than governance by Torah.

2. Irrational retaliation by offended husband

"And Samson said concerning them, now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure. And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails. And Samson said unto them, though ye have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease." Judges 15:3-4, 7

When Samson returned to his father-in-law's house in the land of the Philistines with a young goat for reconciliation, he discovered that his spouse had been given to someone else and her father offered to give him her sister, an offer which Samson spurned.

As a way of revenging Samson, being harvest time, he burnt down the wheat of the Philistines in the field. He did so by coupling 300 foxes and between each couple's tails he placed a fire brand. By this he chastised and impoverished those who had been oppressors to God's people. After this, the whole town rose against the family who had done injustice to Samson to warrant such action from him and burnt the lady and her father with fire. Notwithstanding, Samson still went ahead and killed many of them. It constitutes a height of injustice for Samson to be offended by one family and for him to take it out on the harvest of an entire tribe. We are to remember that we are commanded by the Lord not to avenge ourselves but to leave all vengeance and recompense to Him.

3. God's mercy towards a courageous warrior

The Philistines gathered to fight Israel in Judah in response to Samson's arson and onslaught. They camped at Lehi. To pacify the Philistines 3,000 men of Judah went to the rock of Elam where Samson lived and requested to bind him to deliver him to the Philistines to avert a situation where Philistines will fight against Judah and kill many Israelites as retribution for Samson's act. We should be mindful of the consequences of our actions, choices and decision on others especially those who are our neighbours and members of our immediate family and nation. Samson was brought to the camp of the Philistines, as they shouted upon him to terrify him and possibly kill him, the Spirit of God interposed, the power of God overwhelmed him and his bonds immediately dissolved under his great power like flax burnt with fire. With jaw bone, he slaughtered one thousand of the Philistines and commemorated the victory with a song in which he praised himself rather than God. The God we serve is a faithful God who delivers His own in time of trouble.

CALAMITOUS FALL AND RESTORATION OF A BACKSLIDDEN MINISTER

"And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand. 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. 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. 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." Judges 16:18-21

Again after previous bitter experience, Samson went to Gaza, saw there a harlot and he went in to patronize her. One continuously wonder how conveniently Samson with relative ease socializes in enemies' territory unguided and unguarded. It is obvious also that he has within him uncontrolled appetite for sexual desires. The fact that he failed to learn bitter lessons taught by the disappointment he encountered from previous attempts shows an underlying root of nature wholly devoted to corruption and inordinate affections.



We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Ungoverned desires of corrupted mind
2. Loss of anointing and torture of defiled Nazarite
3. Parting repentance and restoration of a triumphant deliverer

1. Ungoverned desires of corrupted mind

"And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver." Judges 16:4-5

The Philistines got wind of Samson's presence in Gaza, they secured the gate and lay ambush for him but his anointing delivered him. They hope to kill him in the morning but he arose in the night, took the gates pillars and bars and took them to the top of a hill. Our ability to quickly change our plans and be flexible in the hands of the Lord and the Spirit of God may sometimes determine whether we escape enemy ambush or not.

At last after incessant failed warning by God-ordered circumstances, Samson fell in love (lusted after) a woman named Delilah whose name means 'consumer'. She bargained with the Lords of the Philistines to sell him for 5,500 pieces of silvers; 1,100 from each lord of the Philistines. Delilah was commissioned to entice him and obtain from him the source of his great strength. The strength of nature is desire. Ungoverned desires will corrupt the mind. A corrupted mind will ruin the entire life. Paul admonished believers to set their affections on heavenly things.

We are to put to death (mortify) sensual appetite by deliberate effort and refuse to gratify or nourish it. Appetites are best governed by self-denial not gratification. Sustained denial and deprivation leads to gradual decay of stimulations, inclinations and appetite for sinful desires. The indwelling Spirit of Christ is always available to help (give supernatural dimensions) to our efforts in this regard. Mortification of the flesh help us live in freedom from fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection (i.e. unrestrained, uncontrolled, excessive love), evil concupiscence (i.e. sinful sexual desires or lust) such as the one expressed by Samson towards strange women and Delilah. We will be able to discipline bodily passions and overcome lust and thus escape the judgment of God and utter ruin.

2. Loss of anointing and torture of defiled Nazarite

"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. 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." Judges 16:19, 21

After three failed attempts which should have hinted on the design and intentions of Delilah and the Philistines, which Samson ignored as danger signs, Samson's locks, the evidence of his Nazarite vow and the conditions of God's abiding presence

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." Colossians 3:5, 6

with him was finally shaved while he slept on Delilah's knees.

The Philistines eventually arrested and blinded him. It is interesting that the first object of discipline was his unrestrained eyes with which he lusted after strange women. It is not uncommon for the particular part of human body with which people lusts to become the first to be destroyed. Delilah was paid in full. She received as arranged the price of betrayal like a forerunner of Judas Iscariot. The Philistines bind Samson with fetters of brass, imprisoned him and made him to grind in the prison house. We must take serious the responsibility of mortifying sinful inclinations to allow our spiritual life and relationship with God to grow and develop.

3. Parting repentance and restoration of a triumphant deliverer

"And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life." Judges 16:28-30



Later the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god for their success against Samson. When they were drunk they decided to bring Samson to entertain and arouse them by which time his locks were beginning to grow. When Samson came to the Hall full of men and women including the lords of the Philistines and 3,000 men that were on the roof, he asked and was guided by a small boy to lay hold on the pillars upon which the house stood. There he confessed his sins and prayed for restoration of anointing to make him avenge his eyes which the Philistines blinded. The Lord answered him and he pulled down the house with all the strength which the Lord granted him.

Samson requested that he would die with the Philistines who had mocked, misused and abused him and he did.



He slew more at his death than they which he slew in his lifetime. After his death, his brethren and all the house of his father came and took his body and they buried him in the burying place of Manoah his father between Zorah and Eshtaol. It is a heartwarming thing that in spite of Samson's failure, he died a believer's death. He died praying and calling upon the Lord. In this, he was a type of Christ who died praying. However, while Samson prayed for vengeance, the Lord prayed for our forgiveness. But the death of both Christ and Samson wrecked great havoc in enemies' kingdom. We learn from the experience of Samson that those who have lived bad and sinful lives in

backsliden state could still be rescued by God and restored to the post of duty if they will repent and call upon the name of the Lord.

However, we must note too that it is not God's perfect will that we die in battling the enemies of the Kingdom. Our survival gives more glory to God than our death with the enemy. Jesus died but He resurrected and by His resurrection triumphed over all the hordes of hell. Much of the attempt of Samson to execute his commission was taken up by desire for revenge. Unforgiving spirit is not only distracting, it could limit our usefulness and hinder us from making heaven at last. We must avoid living like Delilah. We must avoid betraying the trust of those who have committed themselves to us by love and affection. But above all we are to avoid becoming yoked together with unbelievers. Like Paul we must be temperate in all things, most especially in our use of the things of this life. We must keep our body under lest after we have preached to others we become castaways.

It could also be stated in favour of Samson that his actions were God's way of repaying the Philistines for forty years of oppression of Israel. One way or the other, men shall reap whatever they sowed. God used all the wrong and carnal choices of Samson and allowed it to serve His purpose but in the light of other scriptures, it could hardly be justified to claim that God led Samson in the path of perdition and loss of his precious anointing James 1:13-17. Samson died calling upon God and at the post of duty while fulfilling divine commission. Hence some described Samson's life and history as a paradoxical blend.

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Jack Coe was born on March 11, 1918 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the seventh child of George Henry and Blanche Zoe (Mays) Coe of Pleasantville, Venango County, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma City. His parents later placed him in an orphanage.

He left the orphanage in 1935 at the age of 17 and began to drink, becoming an alcoholic like his father. He drank so much he had ulcers and his heart became enlarged. The doctor told him that if he didn't quit drinking he was going to die. Not knowing where else to go he moved to California to be near his mother. When he thought he was near death he promised God he would turn his life around and he was healed for a while. The family moved to Texas and he was drinking again. This time he heard God's voice "*This is your last chance*". The following Sunday he went to a Nazarene church and accepted Christ. He was radically changed. He went to church meetings almost every night, prayed, and read the Word constantly. After a year and a half he went to a Pentecostal meeting and was filled with the Holy Spirit and had a vision of Jesus. He joined the army in the same year. Coe had close ties with the Assemblies of God, and preached several meetings while he was in the Army. He was ordained in 1944, and began his career as an itinerant preacher. He preached extensively through the south and employed some 80 persons. He was one of the first faith healers in the United States with a touring tent ministry after World War II. In the following twelve years, he travelled the U.S. organizing tent revivals to spread his message.

Coe was co-editor of fellow evangelist Gordon Lindsay's Voice of Healing magazine until 1950, when he began his own magazine, the Herald of Healing. By 1956 its circulation was approximately 250,000. Coe also opened a children's orphanage and built a large church building known as the *Dallas Revival Center*. Coe's revival messages centered upon healing, and he was adamant about not taking medicines and not visiting doctors.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

JACK COE
1918 - 1956



In 1953, the Assemblies of God expelled him on the grounds that he was "*misleading the public*" and "*antagonizing Dallas Civil Authorities*". He was also accused of having an extravagant lifestyle and home. Upon hearing that, Coe printed pictures of four large homes owned by some top officials in the Assemblies of God and the smaller homes of himself and three other revivalists. Coe also charged that the Assemblies of God were "*fighting divine healing*". Other revivalists soon came into conflict with Pentecostal denominations as well. Coe was arrested on February 6, 1956, and was charged with practicing medicine without a license, a felony in the state of Florida. A judge dismissed the case on grounds that Florida exempts divine healing from the law. In November, a few months after the charges were dismissed, Coe became sick while in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He returned to Texas and underwent a tracheotomy to help his breathing after his muscles became paralyzed. He was diagnosed with bulbar polio, and died a few weeks later at Dallas' Parkland Hospital on December 16, 1956. He was 38.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

Romans 8:13

SONG OF THE MONTH

A PRESENT GOD IS ALL OUR STRENGTH

1. A present God is all our strength,
And all our joy and hope;
When he withdraws, our comforts die,
And every grace must droop.
2. But flattering trifles charm our hearts
To court their false embrace,
Till justly this neglected friend
Averts his angry face.
3. He leaves us and we miss him not;
But go presumptuous on,
Till baffled, wounded, and enslaved,
We learn that God is gone.
4. And what, my soul, can then remain
One ray of light to give?
Severed from him, their better life,
How can his children live?
5. Hence, all ye painted forms of joy,
And leave my heart to mourn:
I would devote these eyes to tears,
Till cheered by his return.
6. Look back, my Lord, and own the place,
Where once thy temple stood;
For lo, its ruins bear the mark
Of rich atoning blood.

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