

**WCBC ENGLISH WORSHIP SERVICE - MAY 19, 2019**

**TOPIC:** TWELVE OT PRAYERS THAT CONNECT

*Sermon 7: A Prayer For Strength!*

**TEXT:** Judges 16:23-31

**INTRO:** Who Is Samson?

**SIX PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS REGARDING SAMSON'S PRAYER FOR STRENGTH**

**1. Samson's prayer acknowledges God as His Master - Judges 15:18**

Note: As God's servants, we should do likewise by:

- A. Serving as Jesus did - Matthew 20:28
- B. Serving others - Galatians 5:13
- C. Serving God with humility - Acts 20:19

**2. Samson's prayer acknowledges God as the Victor - Judges 15:18**

- A. Christians are engaged in a spiritual battle-Eph. 6:12
- B. God is the One who fights for us - II Chron. 20:15b
- C. God is the One who gives us the victory in the battles of life - Rom. 8:31, 37-39

**3. Samson's prayer acknowledges God as supreme - Judges 16:28**

- A. It is God's prerogative to conceal things from us - Deut. 29:29
- B. Man's mind is finite. God's is infinite - Isaiah 55:8-9
- C. In "*all things*," be they good or bad, God is in them for the welfare of those who truly love Him - Rom. 8:28

**4. Samson's prayer acknowledges God as compassionate - Judges 16:18**

- A. His compassion for us is both unending and abounding - Lamentations 3:22-23
- B. His compassion for us causes His anger to last momentarily - Psalm 30:5 cf. Judges 16:29-30

**5. Samson's prayer acknowledges God as THE source of his supernatural power - Judges 16:18 cf. vv.19b,20b**

A. Samson's unbelievable strength was ultimately from God Himself! - Judges 16:19b,20b

**6. Samson's prayer acknowledges God can use his life again even though he messed up - Judges 16:30a**

- A. He let God use his life even for the very last time to destroy his and God's enemies - 14:4; 16:23-24
- B. God can use a messed up person again, like Samson, if he will just let Him! - 16:30c

**CONCLUSION:** "*His Strength Is Perfect!*"

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**Eagles' Strength!**

After watching the bald eagle in flight, some people are surprised to learn that Benjamin Franklin wanted to make the wild turkey the American national bird. While turkeys are beautiful in their own way, they cannot soar as can eagles. It is the eagle's seven-foot wingspan and 7,000 lightweight feathers that allow it to rise thousands of feet into the air with seemingly no effort. It is not the eagle's ability to fly that takes it higher, but its ability to capture the rising thermal updrafts under its outstretched wings. The prophet Isaiah must have watched eagles soar over Israel as he used them as an illustration of the one who waits (hopes) on the Lord. It is not our strength that will carry us higher and farther, but the Lord's. Our responsibility is to spread our wings of faith and let His strength take us where we never could go on our own. If you are falling, failing or feeling weak, exercise your hope in the Lord; allow His strength to lift you up. Soaring by faith means setting your sights on heights you never could reach without God's help! - *Turning Point Daily Devotional*, 6-26-07

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**Verse For Today**

***"But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint!" - Isaiah 40:31***

**Food For Thought**

"Deny your weakness, and you will never realize God's strength in you!" - Joni Eareckson Tada

