**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. November 4, 2018**

**Samson: A Life Unfulfilled**

Judges 14:1-6

**Key Truth**: We must recognize pride when it comes and depend on God to help us resist its temptations.

**The Story of Samson:** Judges 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14, 16:20

1. Samson’s miraculous birth.

2. Samson had supernatural strength.

 A. Samson’s power wasn’t in his hair it was in God.

3. Samson has glaring weaknesses.

 A. Samson was physically strong but morally weak.

 B. He didn’t take the anointing on his life seriously.

 C. Samson had anger management issues.

4. Samson didn’t live to his full potential.

 A. He was never could defeat the enemy within.

**Life Lessons:**

1. Godly parenting is no guarantee of godly children.

2. Our Biblical Heroes have flaws. Hebrews 11:32-35

 A. Christians have flaws. Ephesians 4:31

 B. Stop living in the illusion of a perfect church with

 perfect people.

3. Spiritual failure is seldom instantaneous but a gradual

 decline of choices.

4. Don’t make prayer your emergency switch.

 Judges 15:18, 16:28

5. God gives you spiritual gifts to benefit His Kingdom.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Ask God to help you be vigilant and aware of the pride of this world. Pray that God would keep you far from it and that you would rely on the power of the Spirit to fight against it.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. If spiritual failure is seldom instantaneous but gradual, “how do we avoid that erosion?” What do the following verses say about how to keep our spiritual life from experiencing erosion?

Philippians 4:8-9

Psalm 119:9-16

2. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: Isn’t it ironic that the Bible records Samson praying only twice? (He was thirsty for water and thirsty for vengeance over his enemies. Judges 15:18, 16:28) What does that say about Samson and what can we learn from him?

3. Read Hebrews 11:32-38: How do we reconcile the imperfections of our heroes with them still being used by God? Why is it good for us to see these imperfections in our Biblical heroes?

4. Read Romans 12:3-8: As Christians, we are blessed of God and have been given spiritual gifts and opportunities. How can we discern when the Spirit of the Lord is directing us to a specific task or ministry?

5. Read Acts 8:18-24: What motivated Simon to offer money for the gift of laying on hands. What warning can we gain in making sure our hearts are right in desiring spiritual gifts.