

Solution to Study 0038

ASSIGNMENT

Please study the life of Samson (**Judges Chapters 13-16**) and **1 Thessalonians 5:11-23**. Note what the will of God is for you from your study. Also note what you should be doing and not doing, to bring about the fulfilment of God's will in your life. Then put all you have noted as it concerns you into practice.

- **The birth of Samson was not accidental (Judges 13:2-23)**
 - It was foretold.
 - His mother was to set herself apart before and during the pregnancy that brought forth Samson.
 - Every believer is born twice:
 - ✓ A natural/biological birth of human parentage; and,
 - ✓ A spiritual birth of divine parentage (**John 1:12-13**)
 - ✓ **Galatians 1:13-16; Acts 9:1-20**—Such was the case of Saul of Tarsus (Paul, the Apostle)
- **The events pre-dating Samson's birth was the reason for his birth (Judges 13:1, 5; 14:4)**
 - Samson was born to be the deliverer of his people: "... *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.*" (v. 5)
 - Samson was born to be separated and dedicated unto God all his life, so that God could use him for His purpose. Such was the case of Samuel (**1 Samuel 1:11**), and John the Baptist (**Luke 1:5-15**)
 - Every believer in Christ is born again to be separated and dedicated unto God all their lives henceforth, so that God can use him/her for His purpose—which may pre-date or even post-date his/her birth (natural or spiritual).
 - Every believer in Christ is born again to be:
 - ✓ A deliverer (**Genesis 45:7; Matthew 1:21; Luke 4:18-19**)
 - ✓ One who turns men's hearts to God (**Luke 1:16; Daniel 12:3; James 5:19-20; Galatians 6:1; Isaiah 42:22; Jeremiah 3:15; Proverbs 11:9**)
 - In order to fulfil our God-ordained, or rather, our God pre-ordained purpose or mandate, we need to be separated and dedicated unto God all the days of our lives (**2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1**)
- **Samson as a babe/young child grew and enjoyed God's blessing (Judges 13:24)**
 - The same is noted of:
 - ✓ Samuel's early childhood: "... *And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.*" (**1 Samuel 2:21**); and, "*And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.*" (**1 Samuel 2:26**)
 - ✓ John the Baptist's early days: "*And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit ...*" (**Luke 1:80**)
 - ✓ The Lord Jesus' early childhood: "*And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*" (**Luke 2:40**)
 - Likewise, every believer in Christ must, once he/she is born again, **grow, wax strong in spirit, be filled with wisdom, and have the grace of God upon him/her.** (**1 Peter 2:1-2; Ephesians 3:16-20; 1:17-20; Hebrews 5:12-14; James 3:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:8-10; Ephesians 3:7-8**)

- **As Samson grew, the Spirit of the LORD began to move (stir) him in the Camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol (Judges 13:25)**
 - The word translated ‘camp’ in **Judges 13:25**, *Machaneh* [Strong’s 4264], is the same word translated ‘host’ (as in the angels of God) in **Genesis 32:1**. *Machaneh* carries the connotation of an army in a camp, an encampment, or a band of people who dwell together, possibly in tents, for their mutual protection. This may also be indicative of the state of the tribe of Dan—being yet unable to possess the land apportioned to them.
 - ✓ For the believer in Christ, *Machaneh* could be the local assembly (church) where we gather to worship God; the small group meetings, where we gather for fellowship or prayer—our ‘upper room’; and so on.
 - The bible speaks of the Holy Spirit moving people to accomplish divine purpose (**Acts 2:1-4; 2:11ff; 4:8ff; 4:31; 13:4-12**)
 - For the believer in Christ, the Spirit of God moving him as a babe in Christ, is a forerunner of one of God’s means of leading and directing or stirring him/her to accomplish divine purpose. Such a ‘move’ by the Holy Spirit may manifest in ‘tongues’—that is, speaking in unknown tongues; preaching the gospel, teaching, defending the gospel, praying for healing, etc.
 - ✓ In the case of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit moved Him to be tempted of the devil (**Matthew 4:1-10; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13**).
 - ✓ The same is true of anyone who is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ!
 - It is crucial to note that our early development as Christians has a lot to do with the eventual outcome of what we shall accomplish for God in the course of our stay here on earth (**Proverbs 22:6**).
 - ✓ A proper Christian development must involve teachings of the doctrines of Christ, which must be lived out in our daily walk with God (**James 1:21-25; Matthew 7:24-27; 2 Timothy 3:10-17**)
 - ✓ In the absence of proper Christian development, we have carnal, fleshly, worldly people in church, masquerading as spiritual men and women, but offering nothing of eternal value (**2 Timothy 3:1-7**)
 - ✓ Thus, sanctification must be progressive and continuous, and must cover every aspect of the believer’s life—body, soul, and spirit; eyes, ears, heart, mouth, hands, feet; mind, thought, motive, ideas; etc. (**1 Thessalonians 5:11-23; 1 Corinthians 6:16-20; Job 31:1; Matthew 5:27-30; Proverbs 4:23-27; 6:16-19; Psalm 15:1-5; 24:3-6; 119:101; 19:14; Mark 7:6-13; Matthew 23:5-33; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; John 8:31**)
- **Samson’s life after his early childhood sadly took a turn that didn’t take deliberate cognizance to accomplish God’s purpose (Judges 14; 15; 16)**
 - It is one thing to have been brought up properly; it is a completely different thing to apply your upbringing as you ought to, without allowing external influences like peer pressure, dominate you.
 - ✓ We don't know whether or not Samson's parents made clear to him what it means to be a Nazarite;
 - ✓ Or perhaps he was someone who always insists on having his way: "*Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.*" (**Judges 14:3**)—an attitude he could have developed while growing up;
 - ✓ In his adolescence he did things that contradicted everything that a Nazarite ought to be doing.

- ✓ Unfortunately, this behaviour became the hallmark of Samson's life and it brought him to an early grave: "*And he judged Israel ... twenty years.*" (**Judges 15:20; 16:31**)
- ✓ Even when we conduct ourselves contrary to the word of God, God can still achieve His purpose—albeit without your cooperation or voluntary involvement—but by compulsion. (**Psalm 32:9; James 3:3; 4:7-10**)
- For the believer in Christ, the following lessons are crucial:
 - ✓ When you don't take the consecration of God upon you seriously, you quickly scuttle God's purpose for you—indeed, you are the only one who can scuttle God's plan for your life; not even Satan can (**Romans 8:31**).
 - ✓ The fact that you are living contrary to God's word, but things seem to be going fine does not mean that God is pleased with you (**Ecclesiastes 8:11; 1 Corinthians 10:1-5; Hebrews 3:7-18**); in the end God will depart from you and you will be on your own (**Judges 16:20; 2 Chronicles 15:1-2; 24:20**)
 - ✓ Do not treat the anointing of God upon you with levity!
- When you take your sanctification seriously, you become aware of God's desire for fellowship and union with you, and then, you become a deliberate partner with God in the accomplishment of His purpose.
- Your sanctification means that you are deliberately obedient to God's word in your daily walk; that is, what you are and what you do are both consistent with the word of God. In many instances, Christians tend to want to do God's work, even though they have not first become who God wants them to be.
 - ✓ What God intends is that we first become who He wants us to be, and then we can do to His satisfaction, what He wants us to do!
 - ✓ This was what the Lord Jesus did—He was first the Son of God—living holy and in the Will of the Father, and therefore was enabled to do what He saw His Father do (**John 5:19-20; 30; Hebrews 5:8**).
 - ✓ God remains in fellowship and union with those believers in Christ who are sanctified and remain sanctified; but He distances Himself from those who are neither sanctified nor retain their sanctification. For example, God was with Joseph everywhere (Potiphar's home, prison, the palace) because he was sanctified and remain sanctified in the face of temptation—"... *how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*" (**Genesis 39:9**).
 - ✓ For Samson, God left him because he broke the union by allowing his consecration (sanctification) to be terminated (**Judges 16:16-20**)
- When God called Abram in **Genesis 12:1**, which is the same call God makes to all men—Abraham, being our forerunner, it was a call to **salvation** ("*Get thee out of thy country ...*"), **sanctification** ("*... and from thy kindred ...*"), **separation/consecration** ("*... and from thy father's house ...*"), before **service** ("*... unto a land that I will shew thee:*").
 - ✓ To serve without all of the first three, is to have served in vain.
 - ✓ To ensure that your salvation is intact, you must of necessity be sanctified.
 - ✓ To remain sanctified, you have to attain to separation unto God.
 - ✓ Separation unto God means that you abstain from things that others may consider necessary; hence, every believer in Christ who will amount to anything for God must be a Nazarite!
 - ✓ Salvation and sanctification are both the work of God in essence, requiring minimal input from us; however, separation/consecration is what we do deliberately and voluntarily out of love for God; and this is what ensures

that our union with God is intact and our service to Him acceptable unto Him.

- In most biblical references, sanctification and consecration (separation) are interchangeably used because consecration is a necessary graduation from sanctification.
 - ✓ Other words that refer to the concept of consecration are; commitment, dedication, devotion, faithfulness, loyalty.
- **What must you then do?**
 - Crucify the flesh and every desire and passion thereof (**Galatians 2:20; 5:16, 24**).
 - Yield to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him do His work of sanctification in you (**Galatians 5:25; John 14:17, 26; Romans 5:5; 8:2, 13; 1 Peter 1:2**).
 - Maintain constant fellowship with God—prayer, personal bible study, live out the word of God, promptly do what God asks you to.
 - Promptly repent of sin the instant it is brought to your attention (**1 John 1:9**).
 - Depend on God for your sustenance and every need.