

Standing for Nothing; Falling for Anything
a lack of
Lessons in ^ Self-Control Pt 7
Judges 16:4-14
7/29/07 Bud Wrenn Integrity

A. Evidences of Gullibility

1) Allowing emotions to override common sense.

Judges 16:4 Later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek.

2) Going back to same people who caused earlier problems.

Judges 16:5 The leaders of the Philistines went to her and said, "Find out from Samson what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered...."

3) Flirting with situations, rather than being truthful.

Judges 16:6-7 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me what makes you so strong" Samson replied, "If I am tied up with seven new bowstrings....."

B. Consequences of Gullibility

1) Underestimating moral and spiritual opposition.

Judges 16:8 So the Philistine leaders brought Delilah seven new bowstrings, and she tied Samson up with them.

2) A pre-occupation with self.

Judges 16:9 She had hidden some men ...and she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" But Samson snapped the bowstrings.... So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

3) Missing the obvious.

Judges 16:10-11 "You made fun of me and told me a lie! Now please tell me Samson replied, "If I am tied up with brand-new ropes"

4) Cyclical dysfunctional behavior.

Judges 16:13 "You have been making fun of me and telling me lies! Won't you please tell me Samson replied, "If you weave the seven braids of my hair into the fabric on your loom and tighten"

C. The Remedy for Gullibility: Developing Discernment

a) Determine God's trustworthiness.

1 John 2:21 So I am writing to you not because you don't know the truth but because you know the difference between truth and falsehood.

b) Deny Satan access to your mind.

1 John 2:22 And who is the great liar? The one who says that Jesus is not the Christ. Such people are antichrists, for they have denied the Father and the Son.

2 Cor. 10:4-5 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. We demolish ... every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

c) Learn to think like Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:23 anyone who confesses the Son has the Father also.

Philip. 4:8Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

d) Internalize your personal statement of beliefs.

1 John 2:24 (NLT) So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will continue to live in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.