

Finding Redemption in Spite of Myself
a lack of
Lessons in ^ Self-Control Pt 9
Judges 16:22-31
8/12/07 Bud Wrenn Integrity

Some Key Realities About Redemption

1) Life is a marathon, not a sprint.

Judges 16:22 ... before long his hair began to grow back.

Hebrews 12:1, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us.

2) God wants our full attention.

Judges 16:23 The Philistine leaders held a great festival, ... praising their god, Dagon. They said, "Our god has given us victory over our enemy Samson!"

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish.

3) God is more concerned with our finishing the mission than with our comfort in the interim.

Judges 16:25-26 he was brought from the prison and made to stand at the center of the temple, between the two pillars supporting the roof...."Place my hands against the two pillars. I want to rest against them."

Hebrews 12:2-3He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up.

4) The greatest opportunity for courage is when self-sacrifice is required.

Judges 16:26-27 "Place my hands against the two pillars. I want to rest against them." The temple was completely filled with people. ,,,, watching Samson and making fun of him.

Philip. 2:5, 8 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.....And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.

5) God works through 'work-in-process' people.

Judges 16:28-29 O God, please strengthen me one more time so that I may pay back the Philistines for the loss of my eyes." Then Samson put his hands on the center pillars of the temple and pushed

Hebrews 6:1 So let us stop going over the basics of Christianity again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding.

6) Our strengths will yield maximum impact only when they are energized by God's Spirit.

Judges 16:30 "Let me die with the Philistines," he prayed. And the temple crashed down So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.

Hebrews 11:32 ... It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets.