

Samson Series
"Failing Forward"

So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison.

But before long, his hair began to grow back.
Judges 16:21-22 (NLT)

**A man's greatest fear is failure,
and greatest pain is regret.**

Samson's story shows us:

Failure is an event, never a person.

The Philistine rulers held a great festival, offering sacrifices and praising their god, Dagon. They said, "Our god has given us victory over our enemy Samson!"

When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy to us! The one who killed so many of us is now in our power!"

Half drunk by now, the people demanded, "Bring out Samson so he can amuse us!" So he was brought from the prison to amuse them, and they had him stand between the pillars supporting the roof.

Judges 16:23-25 (NLT)

Two responses to failure:

The natural response is remorse.

The better response is repentance.

Samson said to the young servant who was leading him by the hand, "Place my hands against the pillars that hold up the temple. I want to rest against them." Now the temple was completely filled with people. All the Philistine rulers were there, and there were about 3,000 men and women on the roof who were watching as Samson amused them.

Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes."

Judges 16:26-28 (NLT)

When a Man is down, he's not out.

**Even in our failures,
God can accomplish his purposes.**

Then Samson put his hands on the two center pillars that held up the temple. Pushing against them with both hands, he prayed, "Let me die with the Philistines." And the temple crashed down on the Philistine rulers and all the people. So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.

Judges 16:29-30 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again.

But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked.

Proverbs 24:16 (NLT)

What pillars are you pushing down?

How are you going do it?

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is one of your greatest accomplishments? What was it about this accomplishment that was so special to you?

2. Read Judges 16:23-31. In this passage we see how God accomplished his purposes in the midst of Samson's failures.

Describe a failure you have experienced. Did you respond more with remorse or repentance? Explain.

How does understanding that failure is an event not a person help you deal with future failures?

What regrets do you struggle with? How have these regrets affected you and your relationship with Christ?

When have you seen God accomplish his purposes in the midst of your failures?

3. What pillars are you pushing down right now? How are you going to do it? Do you need help?