



WEST COLUMBIA  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

## Knowing Weakness is Essential to Possessing Strength

The life of Samson is recorded in Judges 13-16. Within these chapters the reader is taken rather swiftly between victory and tragedy. Has there even been a man to possess greater physical strength than Samson? There is probably no way to definitively answer this question since the Bible does not answer this. It is a question that quickly comes to mind when reading of Samson. His strength was the key for his victories. But as with any person Samson possessed weaknesses which physical strength could not defeat.

Prior to his birth Samson's mother was instructed: "no razor shall come upon his head" (13:5). Samson was chosen by God and to be a deliverer of Israel from Philistine oppression. Samson never let a "razor come upon his head," this obedience allowed him to be used by God for great things. Before a victorious display of strength the Bible tells us "The Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily" (14:6, 19; 15:14). However, Samson loved a Philistine woman named Delilah. Delilah's allegiance never wavered to her countrymen. She was eventually able to lure out of Samson what allowed him to possess his superhuman strength. Upon learning this Delilah lulled Samson to sleep, as he slept his hair was cut. As a result "...the Lord departed from him" (16:20). Without the Lord, Samson was rendered as any other man. The Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes.

While a prisoner of the Philistines Samson was brought before them to entertain them (16:25) in a temple where they offered sacrifices to their god Dagon. Samson appealed to the Lord one final time in order to destroy the Philistines. Samson's life would end in victorious tragedy. The Lord granted his appeal. Samson was able to destroy the Philistine temple. All who were in it, Samson included, perished.

It's easy to forget how weak we are sometimes. What are your weaknesses? Think of specifics, we all have them. What can you do about them? Paul was told by the Lord "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). Jesus can make you spiritually strong; weaknesses - physical or spiritual - notwithstanding. It didn't have to end this way for Samson, he lost sight of a weakness. If you want to build spiritual strength, first, find out where you are weak.

- **T.J. Bolen**, Gospel preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, SC

**NO IN BETWEEN IN 2014!**

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### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J Bolen— Why Are You a Christian?

PM: Ed Kelleher— Thankfulness

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable,  
always abounding in the work of the Lord,  
forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” - 1 Corinthians 15:58

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#### SERVICES

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Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.

- **Chris Parks** has been diagnosed with a kidney stone, pray for him. Also keep **Grant, Faye and Ken** in your prayers as they deal with this and other things.
- **Tommy White** has left LMC and gone to Agape assisted living for rehab.
- **Jesse and Anna Richbourg** have a new son, Hank, **but** he was 6 weeks early and is in LMC neo-natal unit.
- **The Bolens** will be leaving Sunday afternoon to visit family in Georgia and Tennessee.
- **Pat Joyner** is having severe leg pains. **Janet Boyd** is recovering from skin surgery. **Margie DeYoung** continues to decline.
- MRI reveals **Stephanie Rigney** has severe arthritis in her neck, pray for her relief.
- **Anna Porter** is sleeping better, but still suffering with foot infections.
- **Gwen Pittman** continues to be unable to get out to be with us.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, let them know you love them. **Remember to be thankful to God when our prayers are answered!**
- Remember also, **Keith Carter** and sister, **Dorothy Gray, Margaret Gamble** (Jones' sister), and **Floyd Richbourg**.

**“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” - 1 Timothy 2:8**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **Next Sunday—Luncheon!** Harvey Allen will be preaching for us.
- **Encouragement** get together, Saturday Dec 13, engage each other in good works.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

**“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” - Philippians 1:6**

## **AM Sermon Outline: Why Are You a Christian?**

Can you answer that in confidence? Can you answer it at all?

### Are you a Christian because...

- You grew up in the church.
- You want Heaven as a safety net.
- Nothing else convinced you.

### Or are you a Christian because...

- You *really understood* that you were dead in your sins. Ephesians 2:1.
- You *sincerely responded* to the love of Christ. 1 John 4:19.
- You knew it was time to concede to Christ/could no longer deny truth. Galatians 2:20; John 19:38; 20:24-28
- You searched diligently for His church. Hebrews. 11:9-10; 1 Peter 1:10-11

Is why you became a Christian still important to you?

**“... If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed” - John 8:31**

## **SHOW GOD YOU'RE THANKFUL**

How do you **thank** someone? You might shake their hand, or give them a kiss and tell them so, or you might write them a note. But the best way is to **show** them you're thankful for what you've received—that you treasure it and use it. God hasn't neglected instructing us in this regard either. In **1 Peter 1:3** God said He would give us **“all things that pertain unto life and godliness”**. One way He has done so is in giving us a way we can **show** Him we are thankful for the great gift of life, hope and peace He has given us through His Son:

**“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” - 1 Peter 4:8-10**

The gifts (manifold grace) we have received He wants us to give to others. Good stewards MINISTER! He doesn't want us to lock up and guard what we've received like the one talent man. Instead He wants us to minister, give what we've received to others. This is the **right** way to show God you're thankful.

**“freely ye have received, freely give” - Matthew 10:8**

God gave us His word, to **keep** us from sin, so we might live and be with Him. Show Him you're thankful—STUDY IT! Be ready to speak to others of it (1 Peter 3:15). The below little snippet tells us **what** we should do (walk, even as He walked) and a good reason **why** (he is the propitiation, our satisfaction to God).

**“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” - 1 John 2:1-6**

And if we aren't thankful for this, if we don't value it enough to share?

**“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.” - Romans 1:21**

But, if we are thankful (and give evidence of it, as with our faith) we will have peace:

**“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” - Colossians 3:15**

**Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ**

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