

The
Prayer
That
Brought
The
Roof
Down!

"(v.21) The Philistines grabbed him (Samson), gouged out his eyes, and took him down to Gaza. They shackled him in irons and put him to the work of grinding in the prison. But his hair, though cut off, began to grow again.

(v.23) The Philistine tyrants got together to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon. They celebrated, saying, 'Our god has given us Samson our enemy!'

(v.24) And when the people saw him, they joined in, cheering their god,
'Our god has given our enemy to us,
the one who ravaged our country, piling high the corpses among us.'

(v.25) Then this: Everyone was feeling high and someone said, 'Get Samson! Let him show us his stuff!' They got Samson from the prison and he put on a show for them. (v.26) They had him standing between the pillars. Samson said to the young man who was acting as his guide, 'Put me where I can touch the pillars that hold up the temple so I can rest against them.'

(v.27) The building was packed with men and women, including all the Philistine tyrants. And there was at least 3,000 in the stands watching Samson's performance. (v.28) And Samson cried out to GOD:

'Master, GOD! Oh please, look on me again, Oh, please, give strength yet once more. God! With one avenging blow let me be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes!'

(v.29) Then Samson reached out to the two central pillars that held up the building and pushed against them, one with his right arm, the other with his left. (v.30) Saying, 'Let me die with the Philistines,' Samson pushed hard with all his might. The building crashed on the tyrants and all the people in it. He killed more people in his death than he had killed in his life. (v.31) His brothers and all his relatives went down to get his body. They carried him back and buried him in the tomb of Manoah his father, between Zorah and Eshtaol. He judged Israel for twenty years."

Judges 16:21-31

The Message

- We focus on this dark picture because we need to see the cost of sin:

darkness & despair

- Samson's dark situation is the result of evil self-centered living.
- We kick against the disciplines of the faith, but remember the price for evil must be paid.
- Actually in that day, the conflict was not simply between nations and their armies; it was between the Gods of those nations.
Dagon vs. Jehovah
- Big party;
Great hypocrisy

A young man leads Samson to a spot
between two giant pillars.

It is there that Samson turns to God and prays the prayer of **repentance**,
a paradigm of every prayer of repentance every prayed.

The
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- O God, **remember** me!
He is crying out for help.
- O God, **strengthen** me!
He is testifying to his sorrow over his sins.
- O God, let me **die** with the Philistines!
He is testifying to the cost of repentance.

Have you run out of chances?

Have you prayed the prayer of repentance?

Faith Infusion #8: