One of the greatest threats to our relationship with God is that we would buy into this lie that we don't really need Him. We have things covered. ***'God is nice but He isn't necessary'***

The Philistines they approached conquering a nation a little bit different then other nations. They would conquer a nation through assimilation. Intermarriage, cultural assimilation, they would just slowly bleed into their lives and turn them, change them; they in essence would disciple that nation into their ways so that after a generation you couldn't really tell the difference of who was who. Israel was losing its distinctiveness; they had blended in over time. And so God moves to deliver the people before they forget who they are. Samson in mostly spoken about for his great feats of strength, but I want to share about his weaknesses.

1. Samson's Weakness was Compromise.

Samson was dedicated to God from birth but the moment that it was his choice he began a path of compromise.

Compromise is a slow fade. Compromise begins with justification.

2. Samson's Weakness was Lust.

You see this in the life of Samson. Both with the woman in Timnah and with Delilah he '*saw her and wanted her'* he seemed to struggle with this his whole life. There have been many studies done that will tell you that culture, our experiences, things that we hold as dear to our heart, these things all will impact the way that we think and the way that we see and process information. All of those things are working together to create the 'Normal' in your mind. Which is why scripture says in **Romans 12:2** that we can be '*Transformed by the renewing of our minds'*

We can shutdown old pathways and begin to open new ones that are godly.

Samson's physical strength got him in trouble because he thought that he was strong enough to handle it.

1. Samson's Weakness was Pride.

Another way that we could say this was *Samson weakness was strength*.

His strength became his weakness because his strength kept him from being aware of his weakness and his need to find strength in the Lord.

That is what pride does. It say's *I will never get caught, I'm the exception, I deserve what I want, pride says I can handle it.*

Judges 16:20…*But he did not know that the Lord had left him.*

If the Holy Spirit left would you notice?

a. Strong Men are faithful in little things.

Your strength is determined by who you are in the little things when no one else is looking.

b. Strong Men know that they are weak.

Don't pretend you have it all together and that you don't have any struggles.

For Samson it was sexual sin, for us maybe something else. We know that we should flee sin but strong people don't think they should run from anything…

c. Strong Men are strong in the Lord.

Recognize and live with the daily awareness that everything that you have is from God.

1 Corinthians 4:7 *What are you so puffed up about? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you have accomplished something on your own?*