

GAINING CONFIDENCE

Part 3: Connection is Key

WE NEED CONFIDENCE TODAY

- Reasons
 1. Life pushes back - not all downhill
 2. The unexpected happens - we have to get up again
 3. Real living involves a level of risk - no risk, no reward is accurate
- We especially need confidence with God (***Hebrews 4:16 NKJV***)
 1. There will be times we need His grace - His power on our behalf
 2. There will be times we need His mercy - His forgiveness when we have fallen short
 3. Our connection with Him is vital - to recover and keep going

SAMSON RECONNECTS WITH GOD

- When Samson disconnected from the Lord (***Judges 16:17, 19-22 NKJV***)
 1. He gave his enemies the upper hand
 2. His enemies, the Philistines, did damage when they had access
- But Samson was able to reconnect with God
 1. His hair began to grow again
 2. He did not disqualify himself from God's mercy
 3. His confidence began to grow
- Samson once again expected big things from God (***Judges 16:25-30 NKJV***)
 1. He asked to be positioned between the main support pillars
 2. With his regained confidence, Samson reconnected with his purpose

LEARNING FROM SAMSON'S STORY

- Staying connected to the Lord is the place of confidence and safety
 1. This is more than a Sunday thing
 2. We don't want to give our enemy the upper hand (***1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV***)
- Reconnect if confidence is not there
 1. Regardless of how far from the Lord you are, you can come back
 2. Don't disqualify yourself from God's great mercy (***Psalms 86:5 NKJV***)
 3. Your confidence in the Lord can grow again
- When we are connected, we are more confident (***Psalms 27:13 NKJV***)
 1. Build confidence on His goodness, not our past
 2. We are expecting good things from God
 3. This keeps us from losing heart, losing confidence