

# Lessons From Samson - Surviving the Anointing

by Shane Idleman

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*Surviving the anointing requires knowing when to run, when to stand firm, guarding your heart, and striving for holiness as a daily goal.*

**Duration:** 53:49

**Scripture:** Judges 16:16

**Topics:** "Anointing", "Spiritual Warfare"

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## Description

Shane Idleman delivers a powerful sermon on 'Lessons From Samson - Surviving the Anointing,' emphasizing the significance of the anointing in the life of every believer. He explains that the anointing is not just for pastors but for all Christians, calling them to be fruitful and to fight against the enemy. Idleman warns against the dangers of succumbing to pressure and sin, urging believers to guard their hearts and focus on holiness. He highlights the importance of remembering one's identity in Christ, especially during trials, and encourages the congregation to seek God's strength and presence in their lives. Ultimately, he reminds them that even in failure, God's grace allows for restoration and renewed strength.

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## Transcript

I want to talk to you this morning from the book of Judges. If you have your Bibles, you can turn to Judges 16, chapter 16, verse 16. Lessons from Samson.

Lessons from Samson. And in case you're thinking, well, you're just doing that because you don't have a sermon ready for today. Well, I had today's sermon ready days ago on the book of Proverbs, all nice and neat and ready to be printed.

But I have to listen obviously to those promptings of the Holy Spirit. And usually God will put something on my heart that's weighty until I deal with it. That weight is not lifted.

And that weight was what should I do with it this morning. But the main title is surviving the anointing. Surviving the anointing.

And I don't know how many of you are aware of this, but this could be a good lesson this morning on this word anointing. What do you think of when you hear that word? Because some people think of, oh, here he goes again. You know, we think of the hyper-Pentecostals or the charismatics and anointing, anointing,

anointing, anointing.

And are you aware that actually the name of Christ means anointed one? And the biblical definition of anointing is God has put his spirit on a person for a purpose. Anointing, to be anointed of God, that's a high calling. It's a very good calling.

But here's what I don't think you are aware of. First John 2:20 says that all true believers have an anointing from the Holy One. So if you are a believer this morning, you believe in Jesus Christ, you have the Holy Spirit in you, I've come to serve notice on you.

That you have an anointing of God to do something for God. And many people think, well, the pastor has to have an anointing. Well, I think the businessman and the dad needs one just as much.

The single mom, the mother who's working, I mean, the anointing, because we tend to elevate. And God doesn't elevate. He's no respecter of persons.

What he's called a person to do is no different than what he's called me to do. So what happens is the anointing of God comes upon your life as the Holy Spirit is given rule and reign in your life. And I believe the more anointed you'll be is measured by the degree that you give up your own will and submit to the will of the Holy Spirit.

Because when you submit to the work of the Holy Spirit and you say, God, whatever you want to do, watch out, because that anointing comes upon you in a very strong way. It's God calling you to do something. And here's basically what the anointing does.

You are called to be fruitful. You are called to be fruitful. Now, I know many of you came in this morning not feeling that way.

That's why I'm so happy that Pri said that about that song. Yes, I will. Because that is what she said.

I don't know if you realize it, but it is absolutely biblical and correct. I will worship you regardless how I feel. I will worship you regardless of the darkest valleys.

Most people are hindered in worship even this morning because they're fighting on the way to church. Or they watched a bunch of garbage last night. They don't wake up with the fire of God.

They're barely dragging in. How can I drive two hours to Disneyland with my kids and it's perfect peace, but I can't get 15 minutes over that mountain? Disturbing that peace, what we're watching at night, what we're viewing in the morning, our attitudes when we come in here handcuffed. And it's no secret that, I don't know, 25 people here this morning for morning worship, I see them all through and they're worshipping.

Why? Because they've been saturated in the presence of God. The anointing, that presence of God. And you can tell your flesh, you will submit.

You will submit, yes, I will worship him. So, you're to be fruitful, but you're also to be a fighter. You will fight.

When the anointing is on you, as it is with all believers who've surrendered to the work of God, you will become a fighter. We don't like that, do we? But it really, it kind of parallels with the United States and

people say, well, I don't want to get involved. Well, too bad you're already involved.

Christians say that, well, I don't want to get involved, I just want to be a secret service Christian and I just want to kind of, you know, I just want to kind of come to church and just, I don't want that too late. You're already involved, you're in the fight. If you are a child of God, you are against the works of the enemy and you are in a fight.

For your soul, for your families, for your children, you are in a fight. So, fast forward now, I'm not going to talk about the whole life of Samson, but Judges 16, 16. And most know, but I shouldn't assume that everyone knows, Samson was a mighty man of God and pretty much anyone has heard of Samson that knows anything about the Bible, even unbelievers.

And they know about Samson, they know about Delilah, they know the story, but Samson was anointed by God to fulfill a mission, to deliver God's people from bondage. So God anointed that person, even from his mother's womb, that she took a Nazarite vow. There was a, so this is important because you have to understand there was a consecration on Samson's life.

He was consecrated because God said, I'm going to call you to do something. That means you have to be consecrated. You have to be set apart.

So that's my challenge for you this morning, is that is your call as well. That's why the church shouldn't look like the world. There's a difference.

I have to have, because of this anointing upon my life and your life, I have to be different. There's a consecration, there's a setting apart. Because when we set ourselves apart to do God's work, we're filled with the Spirit of God.

When we don't and we're just led astray by the flow of the world, we are not filled with God's Spirit. And you know that's a miserable place to live, don't you? That's why I believe most Christians aren't fulfilled, is they know there's something more. I know God's, I hear that a lot.

I know God's called me to, and you fill in the blank, but I'm detoured to my destiny. I'm sidetracked. I actually took this out this morning, but I think it's relevant because I can't get it out of my mind.

When you are anointed with the Holy Spirit, the world will hate you. The culture will be against you. And people say, but that's not true.

Jesus, everybody loved Jesus. Try this. We could just go somewhere and say, did you know what Jesus said? He's the only way, the only truth, the only life.

You can't get to God but through Jesus. You watch what happens. And when I read the New Testament, I try to get through it twice a year, and I keep coming upon these verses where Jesus rebuked entire cities, because they didn't repent.

Of course in Bethsaida, oh, if the good works that were done in Tyre and Sidon were done in you, you would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes and humility. That's what that was. It was a humbling.

He rebuked entire cities. He rebuked religious leaders. Yes, he was a friend of sinners, but he never caved in to sin.

I want to be careful here, but, and I don't want to say anything because I'm trying to verify it, but just a few days ago, one of our favorite high-profile worship leaders just came out and said, I don't know if gay marriage is wrong or homosexuality is wrong. We sing her songs. What happens? Because these people need to be filled mightily with the Spirit of God.

The reason there's so much confusion, what does the Bible say? I don't know, it's because you're not spending time in his presence, broken before him, looking to his word, because when you're filled with the Spirit of God, that spirit is a spirit of boldness. It's authority. They said of Jesus, no man ever spoke like that man.

What do they mean? The authority, the boldness to say, this is wrong, this is right, this is God's will, this is not. And from that authority, then that boldness, the people said, he's not like the other teachers. He speaks with authority and boldness.

So Christian leaders, pastors, whoever you are, spend time in God's broken prayer closet, being filled with his Spirit. So that's where we find ourselves with Samson. He was through many trials and setbacks and he was about ready to go through hell.

And he meets Delilah, of course, and here's what happened. It came to pass when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him so that his soul was vexed to death. Have you ever been there? I will tell you right now, that is one of the tools of the enemy.

He will use that to be pestered and pressured and pressured and pressured. And then what happens when he pressures you, he wants you to explode. Do you ever explode in rage and say, what happened? I guarantee you weren't having a great day.

There was pressure and pestering. And then here's verse 17, he said, enough, enough of this. He told her all of his heart, be careful, guard your heart.

In the multitude of words, sin is not lacking. So those of you who like to talk a lot, be careful. It can get us in trouble, can't it? No razor, he said, has ever come upon my head for I have been a Nazarite to God from my mother's womb.

If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me and I shall become weak and be like any other man. So Samson had this great strength, great strength from God. And I personally believe it wasn't just the hair.

You know, he's got hair, now he doesn't. It's a symbol of consecration. If I remove this symbol of consecration, I will withdraw the Spirit of God from me.

And this is why many people when they're caught in sin, the Spirit of God has been withdrawn from them. Not in the way of Samson, I'm going to explain that in a minute, but it's actually the Holy Spirit has been quenched and grieved in them. And they lose that anointing, they lose that unction, that power.

Boy, I'll tell you what I can tell a difference as sure as night is different from day. When I speak at different places and the Spirit of God is not there. And every sentence, it doesn't happen too much here, and I'm praying, Lord, just get me out of this.

Lord, oh God, fall, please. God, Holy Spirit, where are you? God. And you're just going through, it's like bricks are falling out of your mouth.

And the people are yawning. They're looking at their clock. The clock's anywhere, their watch, you know, and their phones now.

And it's just, where's the Spirit of God? Where's that anointing? Where's that power? And sometimes it's because the whole atmosphere, there's a sense of darkness and of oppression, especially depending on where you speak and where you're bringing that. I felt that big time at the college when I debated the atheist and also spoke about knowing God at the college. You just feel this, but you go in and you take spiritual authority.

So let's talk about a few things. Pestered. Pestered to annoy repeatedly, to be pressed and pressured.

Have any of you came here this morning feeling that? So far, I'm doing pretty good this week. These aren't hitting me, but it does sometimes. Pestered and pressured.

So point number one, surviving the anointing involves knowing who to run to when you are pressured. Knowing who to run to. Because here's why it's so critical.

Most of us run back to what? Sin. When I'm pressured, when you're pressured, you run back to sin. What is that sin? You fill in the blank.

Last week we talked about pornography for some. Anger, addiction, pills, doubt, unbelief. I'm amazed how many people run back to unbelief and bitterness towards God because of pressure.

I've had enough. So the very thing you should be running to is the very thing you're running from. And that's where I believe Samson started to, you know what, I'm done with you, woman.

You are not a benefit to me. We are unequally yoked. We shouldn't even be sleeping together.

I'm out of here. I'm fleeing this instead of fueling it. That pestering and that pressure, I feel it sometimes, pressure to perform.

It happens a lot. On Sunday, people say, oh, that was such a great, how are you going to do that again next Sunday? I have no clue. Thank you for pressuring me.

But I did learn many years ago that, like I shared, unless God's spirit moves, it's pointless. And I'm actually not trying to better myself every single Sunday. That's impossible and there's nothing to better.

It's just you come broken before God. You share what he's put on your heart and you let the chips fall where they may. And it's interesting because somebody will text, it just happened this week, last week's sermon was, I think, the best I've ever heard.

Well, a month ago, somebody said this about this message. And two months ago, somebody said, see, it's hitting you where your hearts are at. It's hitting you, the Holy Spirit speaking to you at certain areas.

That's why you leave. Oh, that was the best. Well, for someone else, it was like, my wife will tell me, it's all right.

It's all right. That's why she asks every time, what are you speaking on tomorrow? You'll find out because I'm not talking about, I'm not telling you. Proverbs 18.10, such a heavy message.

I'm glad we're bringing a little laughter in here because sometimes I have a hard week with, I have no friends, close friends, people who used to come here, sit over there, just found out he left his wife under our watch. Another friend, suicidal, grown up for years, can't get through. Another person leaves his wife and kids.

There's no reconciliation. We can't get, you're two believers. What do you mean there's no reconciliation? Wake up.

It's just the brokenness is all over our nation. The brokenness, the broken families, the children, all these, it's just alarming. Where's the weeping? Remember, until your prayer becomes a cry, we're not going to see results.

We should, oh, the burden. What is going on? This is a serious issue. All of these people have not survived the anointing because they've caved in when they should be fighting.

Who do you run to when you're pressured? I like Proverbs 18.10, the name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous man runs into it and is safe. There's nothing more as far as a symbol of strength.

To us today, it would parallel a battleship or a military. The name of the Lord is like sitting in between the Navy SEALs or sitting in between the fighter aircraft. They're giving the imagery here of the name of the Lord.

Just the name of the Lord is a strong tower. You run into it and there you are safe. Yes, I will.

That's why that song, yes, I will. I'm going to run to the Lord even when I don't feel like it. You better get that deep down in your spirit because rarely will you always feel like it.

You have to run and then your feelings catch up. I run to the strong tower and then my feelings catch up and say, oh, I'm glad you're here. Well, thank you.

Where have you been? Because you want to take me the other direction. Come on, the world sings it. This is my fight song.

This is my fight song. This is I'm doing all right song, right? Why can't we say that when it comes to worship? I know I missed up a line there. So where do your feet take you in time of despair? Then verse 18, when Delilah saw that he told her all his heart, she sent and called for the Lords of the Philistines saying, come up for he has told me all his heart.

Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him and his strength left him. Now I often wonder, did Samson really think that would happen? Because you can get so comfortable doing God's will, you sin, I didn't really get caught.

I sin, didn't really get caught. I'm sinning. It's not that bad.

But did he really know? Because I have a hard time believing that he's going to tell this lady where his strength really lied if he really thought, because he knew she's sneaky. She's been asking him prior to this, or did pride get in the way? He said, it won't happen to me. I'm God's man.

I'm God's woman. I've been a Christian for 20 years. It won't happen to me.

Be careful, Samson. It can. So surviving the anointing, part two, or point two.

Surviving the anointing means that you must guard your heart. You must guard your heart. What does that mean? Well, I'm glad you asked.

It means this. Keep your heart with all diligence, Proverbs says. Keep your heart, guard your heart, for out of it flow the issues of life.

Another translation says for out of it flow the, it's a wellspring of life. Everything comes from the heart. It's not talking about the pumping heart here, but the core of who a person is.

Our thoughts, our desires, our motivations, our actions must be guarded. That's where the word guardrails comes from. Where are they guarding? Well, they look kind of ugly there on that mountain.

What are they guarding? You texting. Guardrails. So you guard your heart the same way you have these guardrails up.

I'm going to be careful, Samson, and not tell people my entire heart. A fool vents all his feelings. I'm going to guard my heart.

I'm going to use wisdom. I'm not going to be a chatty Kathy and do all these things. I'm going to guard my heart.

I'm not going to cave into this. I've put boundaries on my heart. Why don't you do that anymore like your friends do? Because I'm guarding my heart.

That's how you survive the anointing. One of the steps. As we know, anger, pride, and giving into temptation removes the guardrails.

Those are the big three we see throughout the Bible, and mainly in Samson's life as well. I love to say this as often as I can, but you'd be amazed at what God does with humility. I don't know where you're at this morning.

I don't know what you're going through, but you would be absolutely amazed to see what God does with humility. To me, I picture this. Humility is like this hard piece of clay that sat out in the sun for weeks, and it's hard.

It's just as hard as a rock, but humility allows that clay to be softened and put again there on the potter's wheel. What I wanted to be, what I wanted to be, this hardness and this rock. Humility allows me to go back on the potter's wheel and say, okay son or daughter, here's what I want you to be.

Would you just submit to the work in the hands of the potter? That's what humility does. The Bible actually says that he resists the proud. God resists the proud.

Can you imagine if Samson would have humbled himself? God, I'm getting trapped here, but he resists the proud. He gives grace to the humble. So another point.

Surviving the anointing means that holiness becomes your daily goal. How often do we talk about holiness here? Quite a bit, but I can't avoid it on this point of surviving the anointing. David Ravenhill, Leonard Ravenhill's son, wrote a good book on this.

I've passed it out before on surviving the anointing. Because there's a daily attack. There's a weekly attack that's coming against what God is doing in your life.

That's what he's after. If he can't get your salvation, he's going to go for your testimony. He's going to go for your influence.

So part of surviving that daily attack is holiness. Here's the thing we learned from Samson. I told the men yesterday they can tweet this and so can you after the service.

Sin fascinates and then it assassinates. That's how it works. It fascinates you and then it assassinates you.

But holiness keeps up that guard. You cannot defeat your demons if you're still enjoying their company. See, to survive that anointing, the holiness is the consecration we talked about earlier.

My daily walk, your daily walk, there has to be some degree of holiness in God. And I'm fighting this battle but I'm staying close to the shepherd. And then verse 20.

But let me ask this question. Maybe this would be a good time to ponder. Is there any area in your life right now where compromise has entered in? Don't leave here this morning without laying it at the foot of the cross.

If there's anything at all. See, it's interesting. Delilah isn't described 36, 24, 36.

Flowing locks of whatever. Eyes piercing. Delilah can be whatever it is that takes you down.

Whatever it is that is at you and zapping your strength and pulling at you. That can become Delilah to the believer. Pulling them away from what God has called them to do.

Verse 20. And she said, Samson, the Philistines are upon you. So he woke from his sleep and said, I will go out as before at other times and shake myself free.

No you won't. It fascinates and then it assassinates. And there's a, oh I wish I would have wrote this down.

I've recommended before. Tried and tempted I believe by Russell Moore. He's with the Southern Baptist denomination.

And he talks, he makes a great point that the demonic around demons aren't in a hurry. They'll let you get away with things for a while. And he talks about how cows go to the slaughter house.

They're on this nice conveyor belt. They go through this chute. Feels just like their mother's womb.

And they're just in this relaxed state. This feels wonderful until a sharp instrument hits them right between their eyes and kills them. The whole point is this luring and this, oh see, I'll go out as other times before.

We can't confuse God's patience with his approval. One of the saddest scriptures I think in all of the Old Testament for an individual is this. The Bible says, but he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

And I wonder how many churches they don't even know that the spirit of the Lord has departed from them. People will go because it's got great kids programs. But is the spirit of God there? Because I don't

consider foosball an escape park.

Something that's always great. But the worship, it has smoke. And all these lights.

And they grab this guy from Hollywood chain. He's in a band. But is the spirit of God there? Is the spirit of the living God in that place? Because that's just entertaining of entertainment of men.

Where the spirit of God, do they even know when the spirit of God has departed? Why should church be a cemetery? Answer me that. A.W. Tozer said, in the early church, if 90%, I'm sorry, if the Holy Spirit was removed from the early church, 90% of the work would have ceased. But if the Holy Spirit is removed from the church today, 90% of the work will continue.

And there is so true because we think, well, if God's not in it, it'll fall apart. No, it won't. Just look at Hollywood.

You can get a good motivational speaker. You can fill a stadium in Texas. You'll get that later.

But you can do all that. You can have the top musicians. This one's in a band.

This one's over here. And now that might be okay. But see, and then people go, but we need people on our board that are smart-minded businessmen.

No, are they filled with the spirit of God? That's what we want. Are they filled with the spirit of God? And this happens at least twice, twice, I don't know, every once, once every two months. You should let such and such speak.

Are they filled with the spirit of God? Oh, yeah, but they've got a great story. They're really gifted. Do they have God's spirit, the anointing, the unction, the fire? Because that's how you penetrate the deepest levels of the heart.

He knew not that the spirit of the Lord had departed. That might be a good question for some of you to ask this morning. Holy Spirit, am I just going through the motions? Has that deep penetrating work lifted? Now, here's the key I need to clarify.

In the Old Testament, the spirit of God would come upon Samuel. The spirit of God would come upon Saul. The spirit of God would come upon David.

The spirit of God would come upon Elisha. The spirit of God would come upon Samson. The Bible actually says they're turned in to other men.

That's what happens. When the Holy Spirit of God fills you, you are turned in to a different person. What you used to like, you don't like as much.

What you used to prefer, you don't prefer as much. Now you've got to know it's all about God and your friends are going to mock you and your family. It's all about God.

Right, because I've been turned in to another man or woman, I'm filled with the spirit of God. In the Old Testament, though, God could remove that spirit. Talk about dangerous.

Sin would enter. Saul would rebel against God. God would say, I desire obedience, Saul.

Obedience. For disobedience is as the sin of witchcraft. Rebellion is as the Holy Spirit of God will be removed.

Gone. Can you imagine that? How would you like to be left to yourself? Just turn me over to me. Oh, we should go into prayer right now for that one because, oh God.

But in the New Testament, you're given the Holy Spirit as a gift. But you can quench and grieve his work. Something I think of often, especially when we make a fire, is you have this roaring fire, right? You can feel the heat.

You're back, sometimes you're back, I don't know, 20, 30 feet in the street. You feel it. Brant, your house, right? Yeah, you feel the whole house and you feel the heat from this.

But then as the hours go by, it's gone. Not necessarily. You can pick around.

Oh, there's a little coal. Oh yeah, there's a little coal right there. I don't even, I don't feel anything.

And that's where many Christians live. They've grieved and they quenched the Holy Spirit of God. It's there.

It's there. But they no longer feel the warmth. They no longer feel that fire.

Let me talk to you for a minute who used to feel that fire. Do you remember how it was when you, everywhere you go, you had to witness? It's just like, what's coming out? It's, and you're just, it's not like you just walk. I'm just so joyful today.

I'm just, and you're so joyful. And then the enemy begins to wear you down and goes after that anointing. And instead of, there's that little ember left.

No warmth, no heat. You can't even see it, but it's there. What's it waiting for? It's waiting for fuel.

Just try throwing a little bit of newspaper in there. That's all the Holy Spirit's looking for. He won't make us do anything.

He waits. He waits and we throw fuel on that fire. And then God lights us with the Spirit of God.

Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters and he became a grinder in the prison. I told you, fascinates then assassinates.

I know some of you have had some serious health issues. I guarantee you've never had your eyes gouged out or would know even what that feels like. They would lay the person down.

They would get an element that's like an ice cream scooper or a pluck and they would just remove his eyes. What's the significance? Because now he can, now he's nothing. He can't see, he can't do anything.

So his eyes have been removed and he's got bronze fetters, which are like handcuffs. He's bound and he becomes a grinder at the prison. So he's walking around like an oxen and he's walking around this thing and he's grinding whatever it is, the wheat, the barley, whatever that is.

He becomes a grinder in the prison. You think you struggle with depression? Try that one out. This mighty man of God, called of God, anointed of God.

God told the people, the children of Israel, I've heard your cries. I'm putting Samson, a deliverer in the womb of this woman. She's going to take a Nazarite vow and we're going to build him.

We're going to strengthen him. The anointing of God that no one has ever felt. He slew Philistines with the jawbone of an ax.

He was powerful. What happened? These are wake-up calls. Paul said the Old Testament was given to you as an example that you might not lust after evil things like they lusted.

These should be examples to us. You might say, Shane, well, what is sin? Well, I came across John Wesley's journal and what his mom said. I like what she said, so I borrowed it.

Whatever weakens your reasoning, whatever impairs the tenderness of your conscience, whatever obscures your sense of God or takes away your relish for spiritual things, in short, if anything increases the authority of the flesh over the spirit, that is sin to you. I hadn't thought about it that deeply until that last part. Whatever increases the authority of the flesh over the spirit is sin.

Meaning whatever builds the flesh and quenches and grieves the spirit of God, that is sin. That is missing the mark. And it will come out in our lives in a negative direction.

And we see, this is ironic, the parallel here, the enemy targets your eyesight. Did you know that? The enemy targets, not physically, obviously, sometimes, maybe, as we get older, we realize it's an issue, but that spiritual eyesight. Because see, when you know where you're going, not too many people can knock you off track, can they? You know where you're going.

This got me through the early church years, no matter how many negative emails, no matter how people said, you can't start a church on Saturday, you're too hard, you don't have any education. I don't care what you say, naysayers and taunters. I see what Christ has called me to.

I've got vision, I've got spiritual sight. It come hell or high water, that's where I'm going. So the enemy's going to knock you off course.

He's going to get rid of your eyes. God, I don't know, I'm groping around. What have you called me to do? I can't even lead my family.

I don't know where my direction is, my career. I'm gone, I'll just sit at home and watch stuff that is perverted and fill the flesh up with more of the flesh. I don't know what you've called me to do, so now I'm depressed, I'm lazy, I'm discontent.

I don't know. He goes after that eyesight, that spiritual sight of what God's called you to do. Well, I don't know what he's called to do.

Well, be here in the morning on your face on the altar, he'll show you. He'll show you. Many times we think we're just driving, pop, there it is.

No, no, it's time, spending time with God. And like Samson, though you're grinding in the mill in the prison, as that hair begins to grow back, as the anointing begins to grow back. So to survive the anointing, you must readjust your focus.

You must know when spiritual eyesight is declining. You ever go to the adjustments, adjustments? That's why we have so much time of prayer and worship here. We try to, at least anyway.

I know people think, oh, Westside Christian Fellowship, is that the church that does a lot of worship? Yeah, that's the church that does a lot of worship. Maybe that's why you're here this morning. Your eyesight needs readjusting and focus.

You need to get that calling back. You need to get that burning desire back. You need to get that unction of the Holy Spirit.

Oh, shame, but I'm old. Yeah, but old intercessors are powerful. Powerful.

You realize this. I realized something. I don't know who I was reading.

E.M. Bounds. I've got a whole stack of books because I'm preparing for Wednesday's message. Oh, it's a good intro or a good promotion.

Wednesday, I'm talking about waiting time is not wasted time. Wednesday at six, this Wednesday at six, waiting time is not wasted time. We're considering not even videoing it, not even doing a live stream.

Then people show up. They think they can just sit at home with the kids running around screaming and watch on TV. That's just as good.

Not even close. So all the live streamers out there, come in person. It's much, much better that you can feel the presence and power of God.

What was my point? Where did I leave off on that? Huh? E.M. Bounds. Thank you. This has been profound for me this week.

I'll just share. Maybe it won't be for you, but he started to talk about how our prayers are deathless. It means they don't die.

When that heart stops beating that felt it, the prayer still lives on for your children. When that mind that conceived it is gone, that prayer still moves the hand of God. Our prayers are deathless.

They don't die with us. We don't pray to a false God that when prayers fall on deaf ears, this is a God who hears your prayers. He hears your cries.

He hears your groaning. So get on your face before God and cry out. Well, that's not very manly.

I don't care anymore. Deuteronomy 28, 29, you know, Deuteronomy, right? Blessings and cursings. This is what comes on a people that are disobedient.

You will grope at noon and as the blind man gropes in darkness and you will not prosper in your ways, but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually with none to save you. None to save you. This groping.

See when you look, isn't that important spiritual eyesight? What about if God told you, here's what I've called you to do. Here's what I want you to do. Would that give you a little motivation? But see, you can have that.

You can have that because his will is clear. Men, especially I talked about yesterday, God's called you to lead your family, to be a spiritual leader, and to get into the word and teach him and to saturate your home, to have it be a holy sanctuary, not a breeding ground for Satan. So act on that God's will.

Get that line sight with him. You're supposed to be in the word broken before him. Get that eyesight back on.

See, the reason you're distracted groping is because you're not looking for God. Oh, I knew this would be hard on this. I almost chose the proverbs message and took the easy way out.

And all of this, as we know, it leads to the prison of bondage. He was a grinder in the prison, barely hanging on, going through the motions. Have you ever been there? I know there's some of you here this morning, barely holding on, going through the motions.

And often the man's spiritual eyesight deeply affects the family. Did you know that some of the reasons, I talked to the men about this, that God might not be answering your prayers is because how you treat your spouse? Well, but what about her? Well, see, you've already lost the battle. That's not the question.

Husbands, 1 Peter 3.7, be considerate to your wives. Treat them with respect as the weaker partner. People say, I'll see weaker.

No, that just means valuable, valuable. Like many commentators give this image of an expensive vase. You know, I'm just this Home Depot planner, you know, that God's going to use.

But this treater, treat them as the weaker vessel. They're heirs with you so that nothing will hinder your prayers. Could it be that many prayers are hindered because we've got this John Wayne mentality in our home? What does this first mean? What means to admire, to appreciate the gift that God has given you, to listen to them, to elevate and hold them in high regard? Kids are watching and our prayers are being hindered.

This is a very important issue. Now, can I get to my favorite verse? Verse 22. However, however, everybody's going, oh, Shane, that was so, oh, the last 40 minutes are so heavy.

However, however, I like when the Bible says, however, because some other scriptures say, but God, but, but they were destitute for destruction, but God, but the people are going to be slaughtered, but God, but here comes this massive army against us. What are we going to do? But God, same thing with this word, however, however, Samson, however, what happens? The hair of his head began to grow back. He renewed his strength.

Survive the anointing by waiting on God. Survive the anointing by waiting on God. Now, many of you, I've done this strategically, but I didn't talk much about prayer yet, but that is crucial to surviving the anointing, and that's how you wait on God.

If it would have been completely up to me, and I knew God was leading me, I would just not even preach this message, just say, we need to be, we need to camp out in those last five songs. In case you didn't catch it, that's worship. This is how I fight my battles.

This is, that's how you fight your battles. I would, I'll tell you, as God is my witness, the only way I can really fight my battles is through prayer and worship and humility and obedience to the word of God. That's

it.

I don't know how else anyone does it. However, his strength began to grow back. And we know the verse, those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength.

Are you dying spiritually this morning? Wait on God. What does that mean? Well, to be in a hurry is not waiting on God. To push things through is not waiting on God.

And I truly believe that this, the state we live in, everybody is so busy, so in a hurry, is the enemy is loving it. And maybe it's me, but I hear it all the time. I invited a few dozen men outside of here to the men's event.

And how many of you are here knew that they probably should have been here and should have heard the message? What's the number one reason? Oh, I wish I could, but. You fill in the blank. Oh man, I really wish I could, but.

No, it's just prioritizing. Now, of course, not everybody can do things and, but we have to, we have to just wait on God and not be in a hurry. Remove things that are distracting you.

Remove things that are distracting your family and wait on God. And then verse 23, now the Lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon, their God, and they rejoiced. They said, our God has delivered into our hands Samson, our enemy.

Can you picture the scene? Samson, this mighty man of God, he was known as a man of God. They said, go get him. Let's make fun of him because our God Dagon has prevailed.

And God says, no, your God Dagon has not prevailed. This is what I have allowed. And they gave credit to their God Dagon.

It's interesting if you read later on in the book, in the Bible, you'll read that the Ark of the Covenant was put in by the God, by this God of Dagon and Dagon kept falling over and breaking his head off the statue and fall. And just the remnants of God, of the Ten Commandments and the structure being there, just that in the presence of Dagon, he couldn't even stand in that. So it happened when their hearts were married that they said, call for Samson that he may perform for us.

And they stationed him between the pillars. So remember he has his eyes are gone. He has no eyes.

So he's just being let out to be made fun of. Then Samson said to the little boy who brought him out, let me fill the pillars which support the temple and let me lean on them. Now the temple was full of men and women.

All the lords of the Philistines were there, about 3,000 men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed. Let me stop here before a minute before I get to the closing. Survive the anointing by knowing who you are even when your enemies taunt you.

They were taunting him. They were poking fun at him. They were making fun of him.

So never, never allow the taunting of your enemies to beat you down and to beat you up. Remember who you are because that's all they can do. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words, taunting will never harm me.

See, the enemy's working in here in your mind, the taunting of the enemy. Even in victory and defeat, you will be taunted. That's one of his number one tactics, taunting and taunting.

Nehemiah who is building the wall, Sambalot and Tobiah came against him, taunting, taunting, taunting. You'll never finish this wall. Even if a fox crawls on this wall, it's going to fall down.

Taunting, taunting, taunting. Whenever you want to do something for God, taunting, taunting, taunting. Just like Samson, do not let that sidetrack you from what God's called you to do.

Actually come to expect it. I upset people sometimes when I say this. I know it's a little cocky, but sorry.

But when they're taunting me, I say, you're just confirming what God's called me to do. Unbelievers or whatever, you're just confirming what God has called me to do. If you're not taunted, if the world loves you, have you ever thought if the world loves you, if your work environment loves you, your school district loves you, all these unbelievers, they love you? Can I quote Jesus? If the world hates me, they're going to hate you.

Now, please don't seek that out. I think we should be so loving and gracious at work that people say, I don't like what they believe, but I sure like that guy. That needs to be our attitude.

But you will be taunted. You're going to church again? Bible study again? Holy roller? What's wrong with you? God's going to allow this? What? God took your child? God took you this? God took your spirit? What? That's your God? Taunting, taunting, taunting. And it's never-ending.

So a child of God must have like Samson, knowing. I bet he felt his hair coming back. I bet he got a little excited.

Then 28, then Samson called to the Lord. This hit me yesterday morning, too. Then Samson called to the Lord.

He said, Oh, Lord, remember me. I pray. Remember me.

Strengthen me. I pray just this once. Oh, God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes.

So survive the anointing by remembering what God, that God called you. He sustained you. Remember that.

And the final point is surviving the anointing by knowing where to focus your strength. Know where to focus your strength. See, what did Sam, see this is a prayer that God will hear.

God, remember me. Remember me. Strengthen me to fight again.

Strengthen me to fight again. And the little boy let him out. I remember a pastor 20 years ago said the condition of our families should motivate us being led by a little child.

Daddy, mommy, let me show you. Let me, let me show you where to put your hands. And when Samson, he put his hands on the pillar and the, I feel like preaching for a minute.

So just hold on. But the anointing of God be kind of calling upon it came upon his life again. And he grabbed the pillars.

He grabbed the strongholds of Satan and he put his foot on the neck of the enemy. And he said, with all God's might, remember me, God, that's all you need to pray. Oh God, remember me.

And he pushed with all his might and the entire Coliseum came down on the very people that were taunting him. And the Bible says the dead, which he slew at his death were more than they, which he slew in his life. He finished well.

He put, he knew where to put his hands on it. You need to know where to put your hands. You have spiritual authority.

The weapons of our warfare are not these it's these. Oh God, remember me. Remember our family.

It's okay to say, remember our nation. Remember a nation that used to love your word and cherish who you were and feared you. God, remember us.

That's a prayer he will hear through many dangerous trials and snares. We've already come to his grace. It's brought us here this far.

It'll be grace that leads us home. Oh, I could feel it so strongly that you need to put your hands on something and bring down some strongholds in your homes. Put your, no God, where do I put my hands? This needs to come down.

God, show me. And people say, but Shane, I don't know how to pray. Do you know how to say, remember me? Do you know how to say, Lord, help? Lord, help? Listen, I would love to be in a prayer meeting with a few men and women of God, filled with God's spirit, just saying, Lord, remember us, help us.

Then be in some conservative prayer meeting where they've got it dialed in. Oh God, oh gracious Father, coming down from heaven, bestowing all spiritual gifts and blessing us abundantly. And they've got it down with their words.

But your heart is far from me. God just says, pray the prayer, remember me, Lord, help me. And I think when it's all summed up, that's how you survive the anointing.

Lord, help me. Men don't like to say that very easily, do we? We've got to figure it out. I just bought, my wife bought something for me to make potatoes, French fries.

Well, I'm not reading the directions. I'm going to put a potato on the darn thing and make a French fries. So, this thing is not working.

Oh, take it back. Well, the directions say, my daughter, dad, did you see here? It says, cut it in half, cut the bars off and make it fit perfectly in there. And then it works.

Oh, but we do that spiritually. I've got this. I got this, God.

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