

"Living on the Fault Line"

Masterwork Winter 2007-2008 – pages 94-108

Based off of Moral Earthquakes and Secret Faults by O.S. Hawkins
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1. QUESTION: We all know men or women whose actions have resulted in what we might call amoral earthquake: prominent pastors who fall into gross immorality; successful businessmen who are caught in illegal dealings, or happy families suddenly destroyed by unseen forces. We look at such people and wonder, *How could this have possibly happened?*
 - a. Example: Jimmy Swaggart (sex with a prostitute)
2. Earthquakes don't just happen. They are caused by things beyond our site, well beneath the surface of the ground.
 - a. Like geological earthquakes, moral earthquakes have fault lines they show up before the "big one"
3. QUESTION: Describe a character flaw (or fault) that can be a moral downfall sometime in the future?
 - a. Love of money
 - b. Alcohol
4. QUESTION: What effects can these moral earthquakes have on a person?
 - a. Who else does it affect?
5. Ask for someone to share the story of Samson
6. Read Judges 13:1-5
Judges 13:1-5 (NKJV)
The Birth of Samson
 - 1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.
 - 2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.
 - 3 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.
 - 4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or *similar* drink, and not to eat anything unclean.
 - 5 For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for

the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; **and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.**"

7. What is a Nazarite? (refer to [handout](#))
8. Samson had everything going for him
 - a. Good parents
 - b. Moral background
 - c. Consecrated from birth
 - d. Was "the promise" from an angel of the Lord
 - e. Strong, good looking
9. Yet in all this, Samson had a weakness – women!
 - a. We all know about Delilah, but Samson's "faults" starting showing themselves 20 years before Delilah even comes on the scene
10. A godly home is not an absolute guarantee of a godly life
 - b. Sometimes the best-intended spiritual influences are rejected by children
 - i. Pastor's kids – they are either the best kids or the worst!
 - c. QUESTION: What do you suppose children often reject their parent's spiritual guidance?

11. Read Judges 11: 1-7

Judges 14: 1-7 (NKJV)

Samson's Philistine Wife

1 Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."

3 Then his father and mother said to him, "*Is there* no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?"

And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well."

4 But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

5 So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and **came to the vineyards of Timnah.**

Now *to his* surprise, a young lion *came* roaring against him. 6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though *he had* nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

7 Then he went down and talked with the woman; **and she pleased Samson well.**

12. Samson's parents tried to talk some sense into his son (v3)

13. QUESTION: How much would it grieve you as a parent to see your child do directly the opposite of what you had taught them?

14. Read Proverbs 19:27

Proverbs 19:27 (NKJV)

27 Cease listening to instruction, my son,
And you will stray from the words of knowledge.

15. QUESTION: How does it typically work out when you act on what you think is best for yourself?

- d. Why do we lose the ability to exercise even the most basic elements of common sense?
- e. We need to setup boundaries to prevent us from getting so close to the edge
- f. If we get to the edge and dangle our toes over the edge, it is too easy to temporary lose our balance and fall off the edge
- g. But, if we setup up boundaries that keeps us a safe distance from the ledge, we will never get close enough to the edge to fall

16. Where did Samson go? The vineyard – broke a vow he held as a Nazarite

17. Why do we think we can keep secrets from God?

- h. The Holy Spirit dwells within us
- i. It's always the time we are somewhere we are not supposed to be that someone sees us

18. God sent an attack at Samson while he was in the vineyard – where he wasn't supposed to be

19. I believe every man has the temptation - the same as Samson's – women. Let me be more specific, our eyes. God made us as visual beings. If we do not guard what our eyes see, we may not be able to control our minds, desires, etc...

- j. Every Man's Battle by Steven Arterburn
 - i. Buy the [book](#)
 - ii. Listen to a [42 minute talk](#) by Steve Arterburn

20. Read Judges 16:6-21

Judges 16:6-21 (New King James Version)

6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength *lies*, and with what you may be bound to afflict you."

7 And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man."

8 So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them. 9 Now *men were* lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

10 Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with."

11 So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man."

12 Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" And *men were* lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.

13 Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with."

And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom"—

14 So she wove *it* tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.

15 Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart *is* not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength *lies*." 16 And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, 17 **that he told her all his heart,** and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I *have been* a Nazirite 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."

18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. 19 **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.

20 And she said, "The Philistines *are* upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself

21. CONCLUSION: Samson lost his strength. He lost his sight. He lost his freedom. He lost his usefulness. He lost his testimony. He lost his reputation. He lost everything. But it just didn't happen.