

## YOU CAN GET USED TO LOSING

### **SAMSON'S STORY:**

Judges 13-16

Don't focus on the **savior** that God is raising up,  
but on the **God** who saves.

### **A FEW POINTS TO PONDER:**

James 4:4-10, Matthew 16:26, Titus 2:11-14, Colossians 3:1-14

- Spiritual failure is seldom an **explosion** \_\_\_\_\_,  
it's usually an **erosion** \_\_\_\_\_.

We can be fooled because things **still work**.

We can rely on our **gifts**, not the **Giver**.

- The beginning of **strength** is an awareness of our **weaknesses**.

### **TWO QUESTIONS TO ASK:**

1 Peter 4:10-13, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, Romans 1:21-32, Matthew 5:16, 1 Corinthians 6:20

- ▶ How are my **strengths** benefiting the **kingdom**?
- ▶ How would I know if the **Spirit of God left me**?

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- The beginning of \_\_\_\_\_ is an awareness of  
our \_\_\_\_\_.

### **TWO QUESTIONS TO ASK:**

1 Peter 4:10-13, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, Romans 1:21-32, Matthew 5:16, 1 Corinthians 6:20

▶ How are my \_\_\_\_\_ benefiting the \_\_\_\_\_?

▶ How would I know if the \_\_\_\_\_?

## Food for Thought

For the week of June 8, 2008

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Chris asked the question, "How are my strengths benefiting the kingdom?" In order to answer that question, it helps to be familiar with how God uses us in the building of his kingdom. What guidelines and insights about using your strengths and gifts to benefit the kingdom do you see in 1 Corinthians 12:7-31?

2. We heard this weekend that we can easily find ourselves putting too much confidence in our own strengths. The Apostle Paul confessed that he was tempted to do just that in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What do you learn from this passage about how God dealt with this temptation and how Paul related to his weaknesses?

In what ways can you see Paul's perspective on strength and weakness revealed in 2 Corinthians 4:7-12?

3. If spiritual failure is seldom an explosion but often an erosion, the natural follow-up question is, "how do we avoid that erosion?" What do the following verses say about how to keep our spiritual life from experiencing erosion?

Philippians 4:8-9

Galatians 5:16-26

Is there anything you need to put into practice from these verses?

4. Take a moment to jot down the gifts and strengths you believe God has given you (possible areas you might want to consider include your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences). Now consider how you are currently investing those in building God's kingdom. Are there any changes you need to make in light of this mini-inventory?