

SAMSON'S STORY, GOD'S GLORY

Your Story, His Glory

Samson was Out of Control.

"I do not have time to tell about . . . Samson." Hebrews 11:32

Most of us know the general outline of Samson's story. We know that he defeated the Philistines and we know that Delilah tricked him into revealing the secret of his strength. And we know about his eyes being poked out and how he gained revenge by killing 3000 Philistines in one of the most dramatic death scenes in the Bible.

But there is much more to Samson.

Samson is a bristling bundle of contradictions:

- He was a man of faith with a weakness for women.
- He was a man of prayer given to uncontrollable fits of anger.
- He was a leader of Israel who lusted after Philistine women.
- He was a man of God who lacked common sense.
- He was empowered by the Spirit yet he often lived in the flesh.

Hebrews 11 lists him as a man of faith, yet he slept with a harlot.

Either we believe in the redeeming grace of God or we don't.

Samson never learned to control his emotions and so they controlled him completely. Proverbs 16:32 could have been written about him: *"Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city."*

And yet he began to deliver his people from the Philistines just as the angel of the Lord said he would in Judges 13:5, and he shows up in Hebrews 11.