

*Wednesday Night*

**H O U S E**  
**O F P R A Y E R**



*Between the Pillars*

*Judges 16*

March 1: Men's BBQ after church

March 7: Woman's Study

March 7: Faith Forward: "Better Together"

March 8: Meet the Branch / Children's Church Inservice

March 11: Missions Highlight - Thorsen

Announcements

March 15: Annual Chili Cook-off, after church

March 29: Baptism... sign up on-line

Go to [tbcalvary.com](http://tbcalvary.com) for more information

Announcements

*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. 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.*

Judges 16:18-20

*Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. 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 free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.*

Judges 16:18-20

No one plans to lose traction with God. It doesn't start with a spinout. It starts with a slow slide.

“We must give the more earnest heed... lest we drift away.”

Heb 2:1



Introduction



And here is the tension –  
the man strong enough to  
carry a city gate was not  
strong enough to govern  
his eyes. Yet God  
empowers him to do it.

Judges 16:1-3

Don't mistake divine patience for divine approval.

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” (Galatians 6:7, NKJV)

Judges 16:1-3

Delilah: “*weakening.*”

“Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

(James 1:14–15, NKJV)

“Repeated compromise dulls discernment.”

Judges 16:4-9

## Spiritual Numbness

Drift is rarely explosive. It is erosive.

“You say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.” (Revelation 3:17, NKJV)

Judges 16:10-17

It is possible to be unaware of your own spiritual decline.

“The human heart is an idol factory.” (Calvin)

“Search me, O God, and know my heart... and see if there is any wicked way in me.” (Psalm 139:23–24, NKJV)

Judges 16:18-20

Conviction is mercy. It means God is still speaking.

The most dangerous place is not when you fall and feel weak. It is when you drift and feel fine.

Judges 16:18-20

Php 2:8

Because in Christ, even when strength has left, restoration is still possible. And drift does not have to be the final chapter.

Judges 16:18-20

Your private compromises never stay private. They always preach something about your God. There is no “off-duty Christianity.”

“For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” (Romans 2:24 NKJV)

Judges 16:23-24

“Performed”

Paraded publicly

Mocked and ridiculed

Forced into humiliating tasks

Beaten or abused for sport

Judges 16:25

“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18 NKJV)

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” (Proverbs 11:14 NKJV)

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”  
(1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV)

Judges 16:26-27

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – These, O God, You will not despise.” (Psalm 51:17 NKJV)

God responds to brokenness.

Judges 16:28

Charles Spurgeon once said of Samson that his life stands as encouragement even for great sinners because though he had “many sad flaws and failings,” he trusted the Lord in the end. That’s the miracle of grace.

Judges 16:29-31

Samson was 'wasted potential' but he did not outrun grace.

“Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.”

(Romans 5:20 NKJV)

Let the God of relentless mercy redeem what feels like wasted potential.

Judges 16:29-31

## Faith Hall of Fame

“...Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah...”

(Hebrews 11:32 NKJV)

Yes, Samson was wasted potential; but he did not outrun grace.

“Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.”

(Romans 5:20 NKJV)

Judges 16:29-31

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