

Connection: A Key to Thriving

MORE THAN STORIES (*Romans 15:4 NASB*)

- Learning from the past
 1. Three things we must have

SAMSON: A STORY ABOUT CONNECTION

- A special start/purpose (*Judges 13:6-7, 24-25 CSB*)
 1. Born to parents that could not have children
 2. Set apart for God - Nazerite (hair thing)
 3. Equipped by the Holy Spirit, the source of his strength
- Lost his connection with God
 1. Looking at Samson's life, there are some things missing
 2. Involved in a relationship that pulled him away from God
 3. When he gave in, Samson lost his connection and his strength (*Judges 16:15-22 CSB*)
 4. There was still hope for Samson - his hair began to grow again

STAYING CONNECTED TO THE LORD - A KEY TO THRIVING

- Recognize that you are special from the start (*1 Peter 2:9 CSB*)
 1. Supernatural birth and set apart for God
 2. The same Holy Spirit lives in you and empowers you
- Be aware of the forces that pull you away from God
 1. The Scriptures warn us and encourage us to watch
 2. We live in a current that is flowing away from God (*1 John 2:15-17 NLT*)
 3. Our connection with God is the difference maker in our lives
- Connection builders - getting stronger in your connection to the Lord
 1. Value God above all (*Matthew 22:37 CSB*)
 2. Acknowledge and appreciate what God has done and is doing in you (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 CSB*)
 3. Know that you can reconnect with the Lord