

# **pt. 1 – Samson – Live Strong**

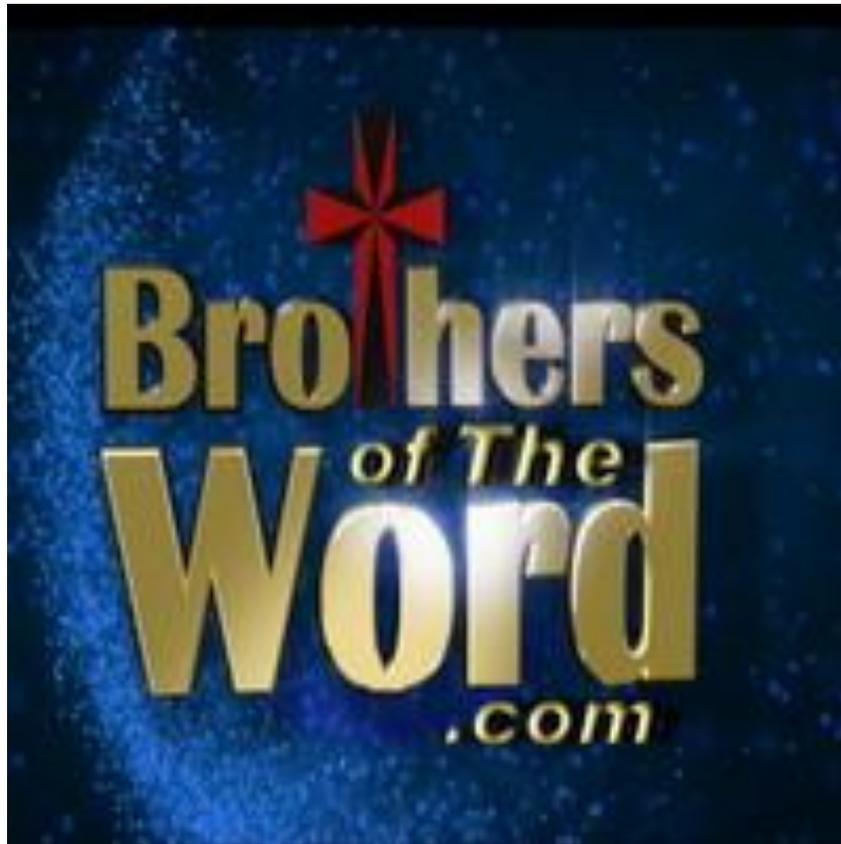
Sermon Title: **pt. 1 – Samson – Live Strong**

Sermon Number: **7645**

Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Your physical talent can take you to great places but only your character will keep you there.

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And now for 7645, "Samson – Live Strong."

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online in brothersoftheword.com. Welcome to today's service and we are delighted to have you to tune in and join us. We would like to just show a little humor, a man had just come back from a strong ministry convention and so he came home with the result to set his house in order and so he marched in to the house to his wife and he said, "We can really get some things straight around here." He said, "Number one, you're going to have this house clean when I come home every day" and he said, "number two, you're going to take care of this children" and he said, "number three, you're going to prepare me a hot meal and he said, "number four, you're going to after I finished my (00:01:50), you're going to draw me a hot bath and you're going to lay out my clothes," and he said, "number five, guess who's going to brush my hair?", she said, "the funeral director."

Well, today, we're doing a character study on the life of Samson, the life of Samson and I just want to entitle it, Samson: Live Strong. Live strong. Live strong. Everybody say, live strong, live strong, love strong. I think Samson's life simply exemplifies to us that Christians are wimpy, we don't have to be wimpy, weak less, live strong. Samson, he was the strongest man that ever lived on the face of the earth and so I thank God, just one of the demonstration in the earth to say, "Hey Christians aren't wimps, we aren't wimps, we aren't weak less, so live strong, today we begin to say live strong, live strong.

The Bible says, Paul told, I think it was Timothy who told, he said, "Be strong in the graces in the Lord, Jesus Christ" "Be

strong in that grace.” “Be strong in that grace.” Ephesian says, “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.” So Samson, I believed, if he were here with us, if we could just spend a little time with him, I’m going to just share something he was saying to us I believe, but I think he was saying to us fulfill your destiny, fulfill your destiny and don’t be sidetrack by sin or distractions, fulfill your destiny, don’t be sidetrack by sin or distractions.

I think he would also say to us no matter how strong we think we are, we are weak without God’s help. No matter how strong we think we are, we are weak without God’s help. Samson was a very fascinating character, I don’t know maybe because I’m like, man I just love the superhero figure of Samson. Because of his brute might and brute strength, he’s just a man’s man. He’s a man’s man. I love that about Samson, a very fascinating individual. It’s kind of interesting to know that all of the deliverers that God used, they always led an army, they always lead an army, everyone led an army and also, when we’re talking about he led an army, all of your great warriors, they always led armies, King Dave, he led an army. Samson did not lead an army. Samson was the army. Samson was the army. He was a one-man wrecking crew. Samson was a one-man wrecking ball, so he was the army all by himself. He was a loner. There was no one with Samson, no army behind him.

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Samson terrorize the Philistines by himself. He gave the whole nation heartache and pain. He terrorize them all by himself. One man (00:05:19) live strong, live strong, live strong, he terrorize the whole nation all by himself and I just love Samson and I love Samson. He has an interesting character, interesting guy and I just want to study some things that his life says to us. He comes from barrenness(ph), he comes from barrenness, his mother was barren(ph) and that’s actually great company because many of the biblical heroes, they came from barren mothers, they came from barren mothers.

John the Baptist, his mother was barren. The prophet Samuel, his mother was barren. Isaac’s mother was barren. Joseph’s mother was barren. So, Samson’s mother was barren, so Samson is on the company of great man, it’s almost like God is saying that when you have to wait a long time for a promise to be fulfilled, he

makes it worth the wait. So I just want to give you that encouragement. If you feel like you've been waiting a long time. If you've been waiting a long time for a promise that come to pass in your life, God is saying, "I'll make it worth the wait. I'll make it worth the wait." So all those women who were barren, who waited a long time before they produce the child, God gave them special children, they were not ordinary children, they were special children and then, I was asked God with just wink in his eye and said, "I made it worth you wait." "I made it worth you wait."

So anytime God makes you wait, he will make it worth the wait, he will make it worth the wait, he will make it worth the wait. And so, it was Samson's homecoming into existence was very extraordinary, it was very special, angels showed up, now you know you're special when angels are showing up, when angels are showing up to announce your birth, think about that, that's what they did for Jesus, that's what they did for John the Baptist.

And so Samson is in great company, angel showed up to announce his birth, to announce his birth, angels showed and said, "Hey, God is about to do something special, he has chosen you, this is going to be a special child," and so angels were involved, some scholars feel like the angel of the Lord himself could have been Christ Jesus himself who showed up to announce the birth of Samson. Some scholars believed that was Jesus. I, myself, I feel Jesus showed up from time to time in the Old Testament because he existed from before the beginning, he existed from before the beginning. You know, Jesus has been here a long time.

Jesus is eternal, he has been here, most people think Jesus just arrived when he is a little baby. No, Jesus was walking, he was from everlasting to everlasting. He is from everlasting, everlasting, so I don't think Jesus was just hanging around, sitting on a throne. I think Jesus was in the earth, he can't wait, I think he was involved in mankind. I think he was involved in the unfolding of this great story that God was writing here. So, I think Jesus did show. I know he showed up to Abraham because Jesus himself said, "Abraham rejoiced to see my day." He rejoiced to see me.

So I believed Jesus will sneak into the Old Testament and show up, even when the three Hebrew boys(ph) were in the fire, the Babylonian so to say, there's one in there who looks like the son

of God. So you know, whether it was an angel or whether it was Jesus, it was debatable but I do believe he showed up from time to time in the Old Testament. I think he was just testing the waters, because he knew he was going to come one day, and he couldn't wait. He said, "Dad, let me just go in and tell you what Dad, I want to tell them about who I am" and you'll find -- this is actually kind of exciting because when the angel of the Lord shows up here to Samson's parents, they wanted to know who he was and so they kept trying to get his name and said, "What's your name?" He said, "Why you want to know my name?" They said, "What's your name? Please tell us." He said, "I came to you because my name was wonderful."

Glory to God, if you know Jesus' name in Isaiah, his name shall be called wonderful, counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father and so I believe that was Jesus, I really believe that was Jesus. He won't give them his name. He won't give them his name (00:09:35) knew my name. I believe there was agreement he made with God, "God, I won't tell you who I am, just let me go, let me sneak in earth." So I believe Jesus enjoy sneaking into the earth, oh man, I believe he enjoyed this. So anyway, he comes in and he gives instructions to the parents, he says, "Hey, this is going to be a special child, he is going to be a Nazirite. He's going to live by the Nazirite concentration which was primarily consisted of three things --

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-- you don't drink wine or strong drink, you don't touch anything did and number three is -- don't cut your hair." You can't your hair, you can't cut your hair. So, you don't drink anything, no strong wine, no strong drink, don't touch anything, then you can't cut your hair. So he was a Nazirite, living under this consecration, special consecration to God. And so Samson, he comes on the scene and we begin to see spirit of the Lord, working with Samson.

So he has at a young age, the spirit of the Lord is entering his life and he is starting to kind of test the waters a little bit. The first scene that we really see where he demonstrates his power is when he is out in a vineyard and he has accosted by a lion. The Bible says, "Samson took that lion with his bare hands and ripped him apart as if it was a little lamb." And so that's when we see the first action, we see the first action of his might and his power that

God had graced him within, had given him and so God begin to empower Samson.

Let me just give you some of the highlights to some of his great exploits that he did, he had not only killed this lion with his bare hands, he took 300 foxes, now how he gathered 300 foxes, I have no idea. He gathered 300 foxes and took two by two and tied the tails together. Now, that's a bad man. Number one, to get 300 foxes, how did you gather 300 foxes? He gathered 300 foxes and they take two of them at a time, tie their tails together. Can you imagine holding a fox, tying his tail, it's somewhat like he dared the fox to look back yet. He's like "I'll break your neck, you look back at me."

So even the foxes were afraid of this man, this was an incredible guy, this was an incredible guy. And so he took 300 foxes and he made 150 (00:12:03) because he took the torch and tied their tails together with a torch and he send them out into the enemy fields to burn up their crops and all of that, so that was one of his great exploit. Another one of his great exploits, they made him mad and he took the jaw bone of a donkey and he killed a thousand men by himself, remember what I said, there was no army with Samson, he was the army, he was the army, so he took a jaw bone and he killed a thousand men, just killed a thousand men.

Turn to your neighbor and say, "Samson was a bad boy, he was a bad boy, he was a bad boy, took a jawbone and just killed a thousand men." And then, there was one instance, he was in a city and they had trapped the man to the city and so, they had locked the city up, they closed the gate, closed the doors, locked the gates of the city and say, "we got it, we got it." So they thought they had him, so their plan was they were going to wait for him to come out of the house and they were going to kill him when he came out the house in the morning so we got it.

Well, Samson outsmarted them, he sneaked out in the middle of the night and just to show them that they didn't have them, he took the door of the gates off their hinges. Scholar say that just one of this doors weighed 700 pounds, he took two doors off their hinges, full the post up out of the ground, put them on his shoulder and carry the gate of the city, two or three miles away, Glory to God. Glory to God.

Folks, let me show you this now, let me share this with you too because I got excited just reading his fierceness and his power, that was a picture of Christ, what Jesus did in hail(ph). Jesus took the gates in (00:13:45) and destroyed them. Jesus destroyed them when Hail thought that it had Jesus. When Hail thought they are undefeated, Jesus (00:13:57). Samson was a type of Christ in his exploits, he was a type of Christ, he was a type of Christ, even the lion that he killed. Once again, there was a type of Christ because the lion represented the devil.

The Bible says, "The devil goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he might devour." Samson destroyed the lion with his bare hands that was represented what Jesus did to the devil. Now, Samson went back the next day or two and out of the lion, there was honey in the lion and he pour the honey out and begin to eat it, so out of that what she killed, he took honey and something sweet came out of his victory. Jesus Christ gave us sweet victory when he destroyed the devil, he gave us salvation, he gave us deliverance, he gave us freedom, he gave us life and that life more abundantly out of what he destroyed came something sweet, and so Samson was a type of Christ in his exploits.

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He was a type of Christ maybe that was why Jesus showed up to announce his birth because Jesus will say, this is who I'm going to be like it what I do to the devil, going to be like this guy here." And so Samson was awesome, very awesome, awesome, inspiring, just gives you, oh man, I felt like just ripped in my shirt, I'm going outside after (00:15:27).

So I was walking around the house just grabbing doors just by pulling up the hinges, just by pulling up the hinges. Anybody ever watched movies and what did you know, you go see a bad action movie and you come out of the movie kind of high up because you want to be like that hero. Well, that's the way I was after reading Samson. Well, Samson was incredible, incredible, incredible character, incredible character, incredible character, incredible character and so, what is his life says to us, what is it his life says to us? Samson's life has a -- it has duality to it, has a duality to it because I believe his strength represents in our lives that we all have strengths, we all have strengths, we all have strengths. God has given everyone something and so God has given everyone something but even though Samson was strong, yet he was weak,

yet he was weak, yet he was weak, yet he was weak and I think that says to us, we all have strengths, we all have weaknesses. No matter how strong you are, no matter how strong you think you are, you have weaknesses as well and so Samson represents the duality of our strengths and our weaknesses that we have to counterbalance one another our strengths and our weaknesses.

He had physical strength but he had moral weakness. He has physical strength but he had moral weakness, and your physical talent can take you to great places but only your character will keep you there. He was weak in character. He was strong in physical strength but he was weak in his character. He was weak in his character. So, we all have strengths, we all have weaknesses and I like something that John Maxwell says, John Maxwell says, he says, "You have to know yourself in order to grow yourself," "You have to know yourself in order to grow yourself."

So you have to be aware of your strengths, you have to be aware of your weaknesses because then and only then can you begin to grow, you begin to grow when you truly know yourself, when you know your strength, when you know your weaknesses, now you can begin to work on yourself, but if you don't know yourself, you can't grow yourself and so you have to be honest, you have to be honest to take a hard look in the mirror and say what are my strengths, what are my weaknesses, what is that I need to work on in order to grow, you can't grow yourself unless you know yourself.

I like something that James Russell Lowell said, he said, "No one can produce great things who is not thoroughly sincere in dealing with himself." "No one can produce great things who is not thoroughly sincere in dealing with himself." And so the mistake Samson made is he did not shore up of his weaknesses, he flexed his strength but he didn't shore up of his weaknesses, he didn't grow himself, he didn't improve his life where he needed to improve it as far as his weaknesses. He flexed his might and his strength but he never paid attention to the weaknesses in his life, as a result of that, his weaknesses shortcut his destiny.

And so what I want to get into and I am out of time today, but what I want to get into, we'll get into his weaknesses, I want to go through his weaknesses and show you his weaknesses. I mean Samson's greatest enemy was not the Philistines, his greatest

enemy was himself, that's an old African proverb that says, "if you can conquer the enemy on the inside, the enemy on the outside can do you no harm." He was his biggest enemy, he was his biggest enemy. I like something someone said, he said, "I got to the top the hard way, fighting my own laziness and ignorance, I got to the top the hard way, fighting my own laziness and ignorance."

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Well, I just wanted to lay low foundation, I wanted to give you the background of Samson's life, I wanted to let you know someone that highlights of what he accomplished, some of his exploits and the terror he exuded on his enemies but at the same time, it was himself, no man could do anything with Samson, no army could do anything with Samson, they can't do anything on one man, they can't do anything with him, he was his own worst enemy, he was the only one that can stop himself, he was the only one, don't let you stop you.

And now, I'm speaking about the Holy Ghost, don't let you stop you, don't let you stop you, don't let you stop you, so next week, we do part 2 of this and I want to identify six or seven weaknesses in Samson's life that were detrimental to him that caused him the total fulfilment of his destiny, his destiny was shortcutted because he failed to deal with the weaknesses in his own character and in his own life and it limited God's full use in his life because he shortcutted his own destiny because he was distracted by a sin and so that's why I think of Samson where herein the sanctuary today with us, he will say to us, fulfill your destiny, fulfill your destiny, don't be sidetrack, don't shortcut your destiny by a sin and distraction, fulfill your destiny, fulfill your destiny, stay focused, stay committed, fulfill your destiny.

So I'm going to teach as if I were Samson, I'm going to teach from his life what he will say to us if he were in the sanctuary, he will say some things to us and so that's the good news, we got a chance to glean from these great heroes of faith, we got a chance to glean. Now, let me say this, even though Samson disqualified himself, Glory to God, he still made it in at the end, Glory to God, he still made it in at the end. He still made it in at the end, he still made it in at the end.



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