



MOST LIKELY TO Flesh vs. Spirit

#npmostlikelyto

Week 5
5 of 5

July 22, 2018

Bottom Line: Our attitudes determine the direction of our lives.

Icebreaker: Go around the group and have everyone share their most memorable or hated villain. The villain may be someone from current real life, from history, the Bible (except Satan is not permitted to be a choice), from television, movies, or literature.

Key Verse: *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him; be strong in your faith.* 1 Peter 5:8 NLT

Samson's story is full of enemies. Of course we know Satan was the great enemy who was committed to Samson's destruction. But there were also the Philistines, Delilah, her family. But Samson's worst enemy was himself. God had planned for Samson to be a great deliverer, and he gave Samson all the skills and capacity needed to become a legendary hero. But Samson's weaknesses, his continual choice of the flesh over the Spirit, defeated him and destroyed his legacy.

Samson self-destructed despite his amazing potential for personal satisfaction and significance, righteousness, and kingdom movement. He squandered his strength and became weak through three very common attitudes: lust, entitlement, and pride. Lust says, "I want it!" Entitlement says, "I deserve it." Pride says, "I can handle it!" Those are the same three attitudes that entrap and destroy us. We want something or someone, we believe we deserve it, we know it may be risky, but we are sure we can handle it. Before long, we are controlled by our bad decisions.

The three attitudes that make us strong head another direction. With them we stand strong and can defeat the enemies of our soul and spirit. **"I want God.** I want His strength. I want Him guiding my steps and choices." **"I deserve death.** While I was still a sinner, God rescued me. I serve Him because I want to." **"I can't handle anything without God.** I want Him to do what He can do in and through me." This is living in the Spirit. This is being a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), bringing glory to God and satisfaction to me.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

What do people typically do when their flesh wants what their spirit knows is wrong?

Discuss: "Samson was an incredibly strong man with a dangerously weak will." How have you seen or experienced that scenario in your own life or observations?

Discuss: "Lust makes you forget logic." It happens sexually, financially, and positionally.

Entitlement says, "I deserve it." What are the typical reasons a person would tell themselves they deserve the thing they are lusting after or desiring?

Entitlement and desire together lead to all kinds of rash decisions. Like what?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

"If . . . I'll become as weak as any other man" (Judges 16:7). Why do people flirt with the idea of being average, just like everyone else?

"And the Spirit of God left him." That's one of the scariest sentences in history. Samson didn't even recognize it until he tried to use his strength. Think about how subtly we can lose our spiritual vitality.

How can I clearly express a deep desire for God?
How can I increase my "want" for God?

How does knowing I deserve death but receive life increase my humility and desire to serve God?

"The people who change the world are the ones who admit their need and weakness." Discuss.

"You have no idea what God could do with your complete surrender." Discuss.

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Share specific places where you need to hit the pause button (relationships, a purchase, etc.).
- 2) Share where you need to trust God to handle things (marriage, work, family . . .).
- 3) Commit to prayer and report back next week.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Our attitudes determine the direction of our lives.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Colossians 3:5

Tuesday: Luke 14:11

Wednesday: Proverbs 16:18

Thursday: Ephesians 6:10

Friday: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)