

Steps to a Purpose-Filled Life

To live a purposeful life requires...

1. Embracing my worth

When her son was born, they named him Samson. And the LORD blessed him as he grew up. Judges 13:24 (NLT)

His father and mother didn't realize the LORD was at work in this, creating an opportunity to disrupt the Philistines, who ruled over Israel at that time. Judges 14:4 (NLT)

Look at the ravens. They don't need to plant or harvest or put food in barns because God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! Luke 12:24 (NLT)

2. Discovering my strengths

As Samson and his parents were going down to Timnah, a young lion attacked Samson...At that moment the Spirit of the LORD powerfully took control of him, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands. He did it as easily as if it were a young goat... Judges 14:5-6 (NLT)

Let love be your highest goal, but also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives, especially the gift of prophecy. 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT)

3. Guarding my heart

The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "...you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink

or eat any forbidden food...and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will rescue Israel from the Philistines."

Judges 13:3-5 (NLT)

Later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek. The leaders of the Philistines went to her and said, "Find out from Samson what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely."

Judges 16:4-5 (NLT)

4. Recovering from setbacks

Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and she called in a man to shave off his hair, making his capture certain. And his strength left him. Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." But he didn't realize the LORD had left him.

Judges 16:19-20 (NLT)

Then Samson prayed, "...Sovereign LORD, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me one more time so that I may pay back the Philistines for the loss of my eyes." Then Samson put his hands on the center pillars of the temple and pushed against them with all his might. "Let me die with the Philistines," he prayed. And the temple crashed down on the Philistine leaders and all the people. So he killed more people when he died than he had during his entire lifetime.

Judges 16:28-30 (NLT)

A righteous person may fall seven times, but he gets up again...

Proverbs 24:16 (GWT)

But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and merciful God. You are patient, always faithful and ready to forgive.

Psalms 86:15 (GWT)