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Judges: A Modern Day Declining Spiral / Blessing; Spiritual Gifts / Judges 16:28–30

Central Idea: Our blessings are many, our victories are few.

**Judges 16:28–30 ESV**

28 Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.” 29 And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. 30 And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

# I. How the Lord has blessed us

**Ephesians 3:20 ESV**

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

**Philippians 4:19 ESV**

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

# II. The Intention of our Blessings

**1 Chronicles 29:11–12 ESV**

11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

**Genesis 26:4 ESV**

4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

# III. Fulfilling our Potential

**Mark 8:35–36 ESV**

35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

**Philippians 1:20–21 ESV**

20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

**Mark 4:28 ESV**

28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

**Mark 4:29 ESV**

29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

**Colossians 1:28–29 ESV**

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

# God’s Plan of Salvation

# Hear

**Romans 10:17 ESV**

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

# Believe and Confess

**Romans 10:10 ESV**

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

# Repent

**Luke 13:3 ESV**

3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

# Be Baptized

**Acts 2:41 ESV**

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

# Remain Faithful

**Revelation 2:10 ESV**

10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

**My Decision Today**

* I would like to be baptized today
* I would like to renew my life to Christ

**What are my next steps?**

* Come forward to be baptized
* Request a Bible Study to learn more
* Attend Bible Class to grow and mature
* Find a place to serve others