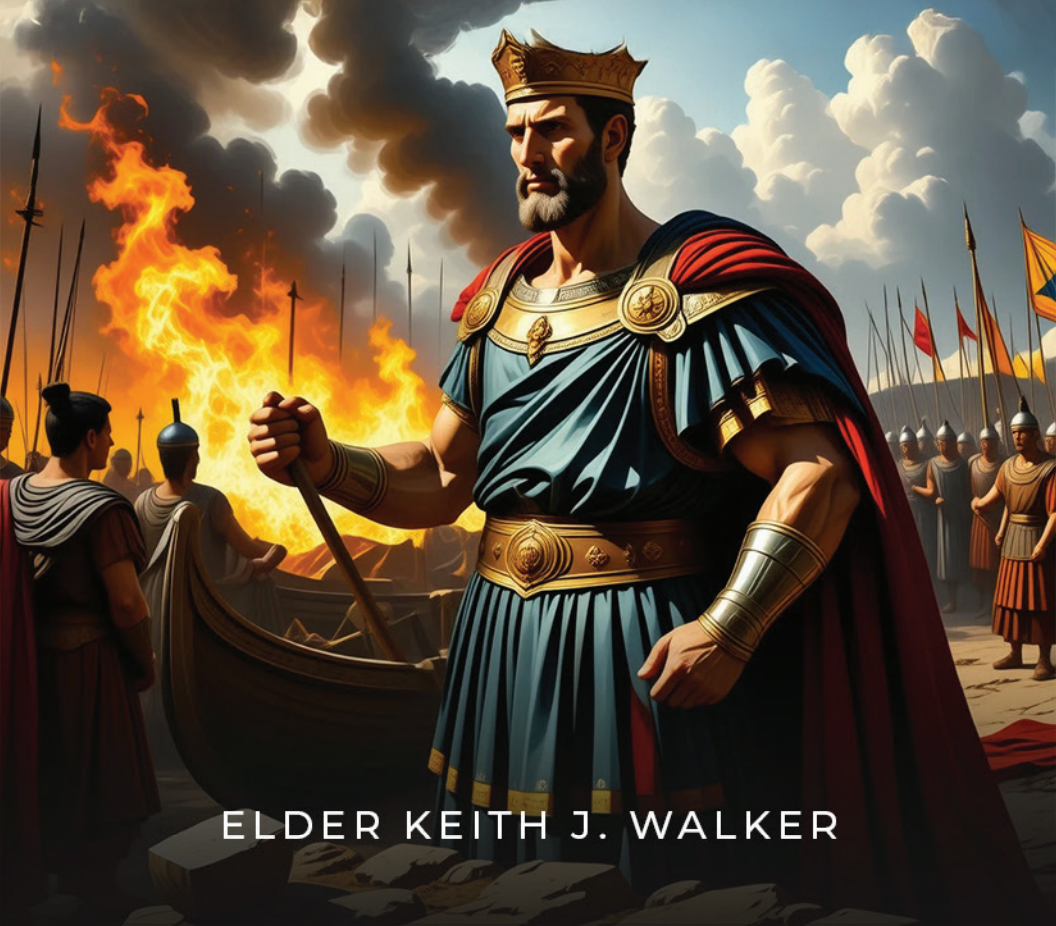


BURN MY FIELDS DOWN

A Journey of Spiritual Renewal



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1. Introduction

In our spiritual journeys, we often seek transformation and renewal. The imagery of fire—used throughout the Bible—represents purification, passion, and divine presence. This booklet explores the story of Samson, particularly his life, miracles, failures, and the lessons we can learn about commitment to God, particularly in the context of Apostolic Pentecost.

2. The Story of Samson (Judges 13-16)

Samson's life begins with a divine announcement of his birth. An angel of the Lord appeared to his mother, who was barren, and foretold that her son would be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from birth (Judges 13:3-5).

Key Events:

- Judges 13:24-25 (KJV): "And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol."

This indicates that from an early age, Samson was empowered by the Holy Ghost to fulfill his divine purpose.

3. The Miracles of Samson

Samson's life was marked by several miraculous events that demonstrated God's power:

1. Birth Announcement: Foretold by an angel (Judges 13:3-5).
2. Strength Against the Lion: He tore a lion apart with his bare hands (Judges 14:6).
3. The Riddle: He posed a riddle to the Philistines (Judges 14:14).

4. Defeating the Philistines: Killed 30 Philistines to settle a bet (Judges 14:19).
5. Jawbone of a Donkey: Defeated a thousand Philistines (Judges 15:15-16).
6. Water from a Rock: God provided water from the jawbone (Judges 15:18-19).
7. Strength at Gaza: Carried away the gates of Gaza (Judges 16:3).

These miracles illustrate the supernatural power of the Holy Ghost in his life.

4. The Symbolism of Fire in Scripture

Fire symbolizes God's presence, judgment, and purification, signifying transformation and divine intervention.

- Isaiah 4:4 (KJV): “When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion... by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.”
- Acts 2:3 (KJV): “And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.”

5. The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Fervor

The Holy Ghost brings about a passion for God and empowers believers. When we invite the Holy Ghost

into our lives, we experience a burning desire to serve, worship, and grow in our relationship with God.

6. Backsliding and Restoration

Samson's life also illustrates the dangers of backsliding:

Backsliding:

- Judges 16:1 (KJV): "Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her."
- Judges 16:4 (KJV): "And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah."
- Judges 16:17 (KJV): "That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

Restoration:

- Judges 16:28 (KJV): "And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the

Philistines for my two eyes.”

- Judges 16:30 (KJV): “And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.”

7. Samson Syndrome in Apostolic Pentecost

Samson’s life serves as a cautionary tale for believers today. His early empowerment by the Holy Ghost was compromised by his choices and associations.

Key Failures:

- **Marrying Outside His Faith:** Samson married a Philistine woman, disregarding his parents’ counsel (Judges 14:1-3).
- **Flirting with the Flesh:** His relationship with Delilah led to his downfall. He revealed the secret of his strength and succumbed to temptation (Judges 16:17).
- **Touching Dead Things:** Samson’s failure to avoid dead things, like the carcass of the lion (Judges 14:8-9), symbolizes the dangers of compromising our faith and associating with those who do not uphold the truth of Acts 2:38.

Consequences:

- Judges 16:21 (KJV): “But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.”

This illustrates the spiritual blindness that can result from backsliding.

Redemption:

Despite his failures, Samson’s cry for help and repentance led to his restoration. His hair grew back, symbolizing a return to strength and purpose.

8. Insights from Sages and Rabbis

Sages and rabbis throughout history have offered profound insights into Samson’s life. They often reflect on the duality of his character—his strength and his weaknesses.

- Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish commented on Samson’s strength, saying, “His might was not in his hair, but in his dedication to God. When he strayed from his purpose, he lost his strength.”
- Rabbi Akiva noted, “Samson’s story teaches us the importance of boundaries. His relationships with

foreign women led him astray, highlighting the need for spiritual vigilance.”

These insights remind us that our strength lies in our commitment to God and our willingness to uphold His standards.

9. Fables and Illustrations

The Story of the Farmer and the Weeds

Once, a farmer noticed that weeds were overtaking his field. Instead of pulling them out, he decided to let them grow, thinking they wouldn't harm his crops. However, as the season progressed, the weeds choked the life out of his plants.

This story illustrates the importance of actively removing harmful influences from our lives. Just as the farmer needed to tend to his field, we must diligently guard our hearts against sin and compromise.

The Fable of the Two Wolves

A Native American elder told his grandson about a battle between two wolves within us all. One wolf represents anger, envy, and regret; the other embodies love, joy, and peace. The grandson asked,

“Which wolf wins?” The elder replied, “The one you feed.”

This fable teaches us that we have the power to choose which aspects of our character to nurture. By feeding our spiritual lives with prayer, worship, and obedience, we can strengthen our relationship with God.

The Story of Captain Hernán Cortés

In the early 16th century, Captain Hernán Cortés landed in Mexico with a mission to conquer the Aztec Empire. Upon arrival, he ordered his men to burn their ships. This act left no option for retreat; they could only move forward and fight to win or perish. Cortés understood that true commitment requires a total surrender to the mission.

This story parallels the spiritual journey of burning our fields down. Just as Cortés eliminated the possibility of retreat, we too must be willing to let go of our past and commit fully to God’s will, even at great personal cost.

10. Practical Steps for Spiritual Renewal

To “burn your fields down” and embrace spiritual renewal, consider the following steps:

1. Prayer: Dedicate time to pray for guidance and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Ghost in your life.
2. Worship: Engage in worship, both individually and with others, to ignite your passion for God.
3. Fellowship: Surround yourself with fellow believers who encourage and challenge you in your faith.
4. Study Scripture: Dive into the Word of God to understand His promises and the transformative power of the Holy Ghost.
5. Serve Others: Find ways to serve in your community, allowing your faith to manifest through action.

11. Conclusion

In the end, Samson was willing to die to self-will to fulfill the will of Jehovah. He was ready to burn his fields down, even if it cost him his life. He was determined to destroy the enemy, even at the expense of his own dreams, plans, and aspirations. His willingness to pray through and repent led to his ultimate act of sacrifice.

- Judges 16:30 (KJV): “And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein.”

Ask yourself: Are you willing to burn your fields down for the sake of fulfilling His will and not your own? Samson was willing to die for the salvation of his people.

12. References and Further Reading

- The Holy Bible (KJV)
- “Fire: The Holy Spirit as a Purifying and Empowering Presence” by John Owen

My booklet serves as a guide for those who desire to go all the way with Jesus, embracing His call to repentance, water baptism in Jesus’ name, and the empowering presence of the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues. May your journey be filled with faith, obedience, and transformative experiences!