

Recap of 7/23/17 (Judges 13:9-25):

1. In a time of moral, civil, and spiritual decline, God raises up another deliverer for Israel.
2. Samson is different in many ways from other deliverers. He led no army, won no battles, was impetuous, and was not virtuous. He was gifted with great strength and godly parents. He is a miracle child with godly parents who prayed, feared God, and believed God's promise. There is no record of Samson or his parents being involved in idol worship.
3. God used Samson's passions and desires to provoke the Philistines. His purpose, as laid out by the Lord in Judges 13:5, is to begin the deliverance from the Philistines. The task would not be completed until 100 years later under David (2 Samuel 5:17-25).
4. When Manoah finally speaks with the Lord, he enquires about the course of Samson's life. "In this display of curiosity, however, Manoah was much like God's people of any day. The desire is to know all steps ahead in a course of actions God has ordered, before beginning with the first step then trusting God to reveal the others in their proper time. God wanted Manoah to be content and trust Him for succeeding matters pertaining to this son." (Leon Wood).
5. God requires of us only that we take the next step. Can we trust Him for the next step in our lives?
6. The Holy Spirit starts to stir Samson, preparing and empowering him for the task before him. The Holy Spirit would not permanently indwell believers in the Old Testament as He does in the New Testament Church, but would come upon them for a period of time, for a particular service.
7. Today when a person comes to Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit **regenerates** them (**a new start**, Titus 3:5; John 3); **indwells** them (**a new purpose**, to glorify God, John 14:16,17; I Corinthians 6:19); **baptizes** them (**a new family**, the family of God, the church, 1 Corinthians 12:13); **seals** them (**a new security**, a relationship they cannot lose, Ephesians 1:13; 4:30); **fills** them (**a new power** for godly living, Ephesians 5:18); and **gives them spiritual gifts** (**a new ability** to serve God, 1 Peter 4:10-11).