

Recap of 9/3/17 (Judges 15:12-20):

1. A young pastor in Zimbabwe, Africa, later martyred for his faith in Christ, made the following declaration of his commitment to leave it all on the line for Jesus (as we say today he was “all in”):

“I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made—I’m a disciple of His. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I’m finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I don’t have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean in His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and I labor with power.”

(from the Men’s Devotional Bible, original edition)

2. After Samson’s victory over the Philistines (in the power of the Holy Spirit), he cries out to God who miraculously answers by providing a spring for him to refresh him physically. God refreshed him physically much like He did for Elijah in the aftermath of the battle on Mt. Carmel against the prophets of Baal. Sometimes our need is not primarily spiritual, but physical and emotional, which God will provide for when we call out to him. Interestingly, the place where Samson cried out to God was named “the well of the caller” or “the spring of him that cried.” In the words of Lewis Sperry Chafer (founder of Dallas Theological Seminary): “We should not mistake worn nerves, physical weakness, or depression for unspirituality. Many times sleep is more needed than prayer; and physical recreation than heart searching.”