

## Words That Hinder And Words That Help Our Growth – Part 1 Compromise

*Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it. I hope the test won't show that we have failed. But if it comes to that, we'd rather the test showed our failure than yours. We're rooting for the truth to win out in you. We couldn't possibly do otherwise. We don't just put up with our limitations; we celebrate them, and then go on to celebrate every strength, every triumph of the truth in you. We pray hard that it will all come together in your lives.*

*2 Corinthians 13:5-9 (MSG)*

### Samson, A Lesson In Compromise:

*Then Delilah pouted, "How can you tell me, I love you, 'when you don't share your secrets with me? You've made fun of me three times now, and you still haven't told me what makes you so strong!" She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it. Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. "My hair has never been cut," he confessed, "for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else." Delilah realized he had finally told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. "Come back one more time," she said, "for he has finally told me his secret." So the Philistine rulers returned with the money in their hands. Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way, she began to bring him down, 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. So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison. Judges 16:15-21 (NLT)*

### Definition Of Compromise:

- To Compromise is to **cheat yourself** of the **potential** that God has **placed within you**.
- To Compromise is to **rob others** of a **potential encounter** with God and an **opportunity for growth**.
- Compromising **consistently** in something **small** will eventually come **into the open**.

*She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it. Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. Judges 16:16-17a (NLT)*

### Two Thoughts On Compromise:

- A. A leaky unattended water drip will always waste more water than an obvious break.
- B. We tend to pay attention to breaks because it is obvious but we neglect leaks because they are not always noticeable.

### A Question To Consider: Where are you leaking?

*Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way, she began to bring him down, and his strength left him. Judges 16:19 (NLT)*

### Five Areas Of Potential Leakage:

1. Compromised **Integrity**
2. Compromise **Focus**
3. Compromised **Attention**
4. Compromised **Preparation**
5. Compromised **Spiritual Disciplines**

*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 16:20 (NLT)*

**Principle:** Just like Samson, we make assumptions on either **past experiences** and **results** or on a **false hope** that it will all work out regardless of our **lack of commitment** or **lack of discipline**.

- When we assume, it means we've lost our **ability to see**.

*So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison. Judges 16:21(NLT)*

- When we lack focus, it means we are assuming what is, is good enough.
- When we lack attention, it means we are assuming what was given cannot be wasted or lost.
- When we lack preparation, it means we are assuming that prayer covers a lack of preparation, instead of being part of the preparation.

- **When we lack spiritual discipline, it means we are Assuming that a lack of discipline will not catch up with the quality of continuous effort.**

*You have tested my thoughts and examined my heart in the night. You have scrutinized me and found nothing wrong. I am determined not to sin in what I say.*  
*Psalm 17:3 (NLT)*

*Examine me, God, from head to foot, order your battery of tests. Make sure I'm fit inside and out.*  
*Psalm 26:2 (MSG)*

*Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith. As you test yourselves, I hope you will recognize that we have not failed the test of apostolic authority.*  
*2 Corinthians 13:5-6 (NLT)*