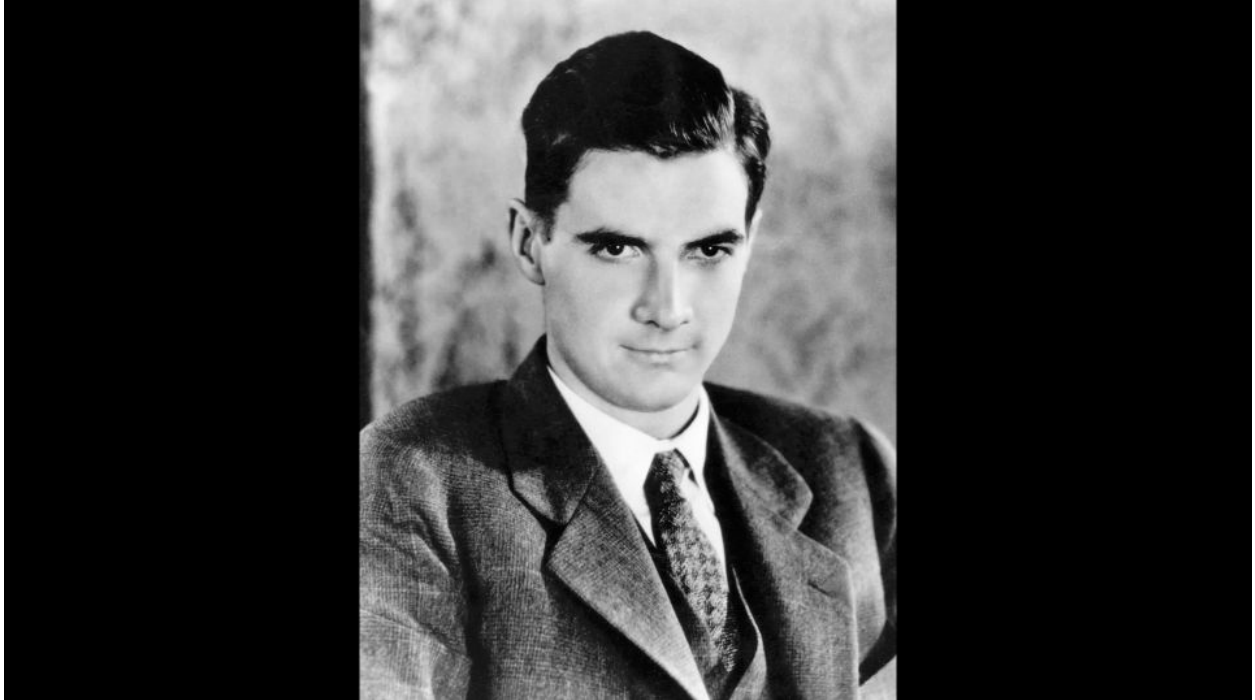


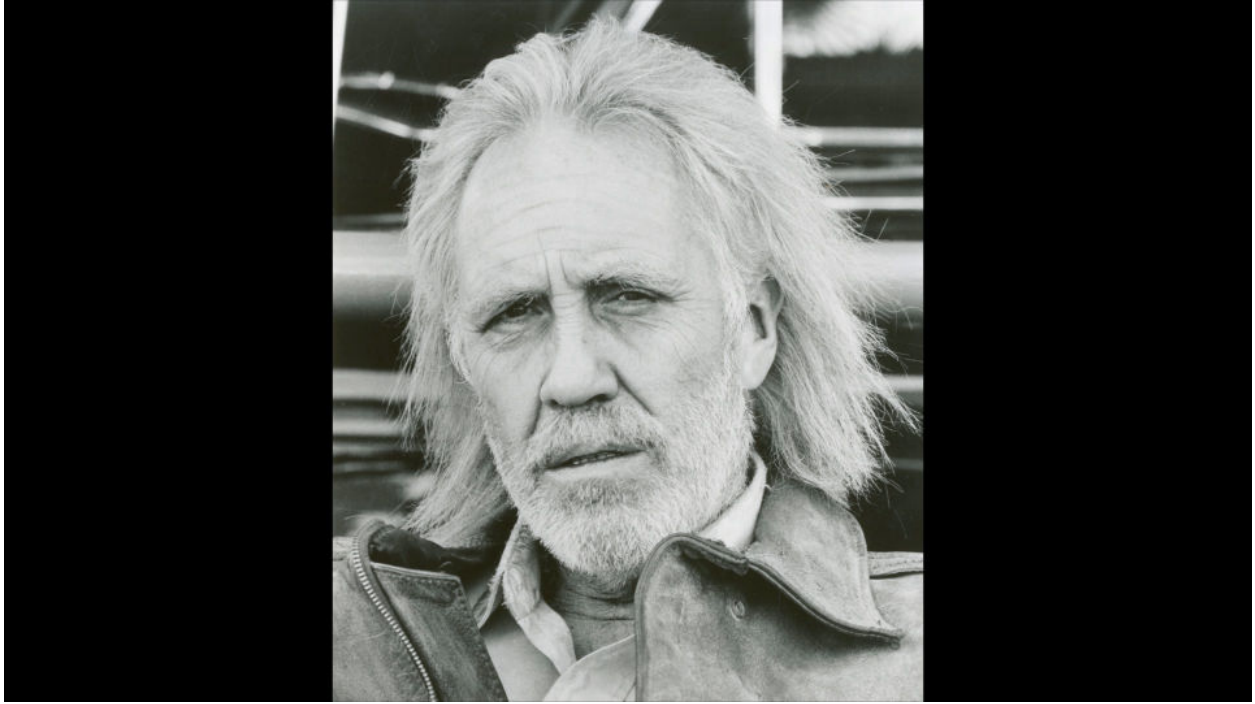


# JUDGES

our deepest need







“Just remember, there’s no one I can’t buy or destroy.”

Howard Hughes

caricature = an image with exaggerated features

1. He was **set apart** yet became **defiled**.

1. He was set apart yet became defiled.
2. He was **sent** yet became **distracted**.

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2. He was **sent** yet became **distracted**.

“She was right in Samson’s eyes” (14:7)

1. He was set apart yet became defiled.
2. He was sent yet became distracted.
3. He was **strengthened** yet became **depleted**.

Samson's unusual strength

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- tearing a lion to pieces (14:6)

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- striking down 1000 Philistines with a jaw bone (15:15)

## Samson's unusual strength

- tearing a lion to pieces (14:6)
- striking down 1000 Philistines with a jaw bone (15:15)
- carrying off the gates of Gaza (16:3)

## How to sap your strength



How to sap your strength

1. **Love** without **discernment**

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“After this, he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.”

Judges 16:4



Elizabeth Gilbert



“To feel physically comfortable with someone else’s body is not a decision you can make. It has very little to do with how two people think or act or talk or even look.

“The mysterious magnet is either there, buried somewhere deep behind the sternum, or it is not.

“When it isn’t there (as I have learned in the past, with heartbreaking clarity), you can no more force it to exist than a surgeon can force a patient’s body to accept a kidney from the wrong donor.”

Elizabeth Gilbert



Eli Finkel



“The science is clear that holding strong destiny beliefs is perilous, and I wouldn’t be surprised if Gilbert’s extreme adherence to such beliefs played a role in her divorces.

“The issue isn’t that people who believe in romantic destiny are always less satisfied than people who don’t; indeed, when things are going smoothly, such individuals can be especially satisfied.

“The issue is that people who believe in romantic destiny tend to become unhappy quickly when relationships go through challenging times.

“Consequently, they are at greater risk for breakup. And, of course, going through challenging times is virtually inevitable in a long-term relationship.”

Eli Finkel

“That partners can cultivate a high-quality relationship by working and growing together. They view conflict and other relationship difficulties as opportunities to develop a stronger relationship.”

Eli Finkel

“But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money ..., lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.”

2 Timothy 3:1-5

“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.”

Philippians 1:9

How to sap your strength

1. Love without discernment
2. **Play** without **purpose**

How to sap your strength

1. Love without discernment
2. Play without purpose

- 7 fresh bowstrings (7-9)



How to sap your strength

1. Love without discernment

2. Play without purpose

- 7 fresh bowstrings (7-9)
- New ropes (10-12)

How to sap your strength

1. Love without discernment

2. Play without purpose

- 7 fresh bowstrings (7-9)
- New ropes (10-12)
- weave the 7 locks (13-14)

“You have mocked me and told me lies.”

Judges 16:10, 13, 15



Tim Elmore



“For the past decade, God has been doing a work in my heart that has revolutionized the way I look at my pursuit of entertainment.

“Rather than establishing a complex set of standards in the spirit of the Scribes and Pharisees, I have learned to ask some simple yet powerful questions about what it means for me to find pleasure in entertainment.

“Am I feeding my own sinful desires?  
Am I communing comfortably with sin?  
Do I encourage sin in others?  
Am I expressing regret for my salvation?”

“Of all the questions I ask of my entertainment, this is by far the most sobering. When I am tempted to find entertainment in sin, and when that entertainment stirs my flesh, I am assuming that it is sin and not Christ who satisfies.”

“May we never find ourselves looking back with envy on those living in sin. May we never despise our deliverance.”

Tim Elmore

How to sap your strength

1. Love without discernment
2. Play without purpose
3. **Confide** without **kinship**

“And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death.

“And he told her all his heart, and said to her, ‘A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man.’”

Judges 16:16-17

“I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb.”

Judges 16:17

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

“Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

Ephesians 5:6-8

How to sap your strength

1. Love without discernment
2. Play without purpose
3. Confide without kinship
4. **Live** without **gratitude**



“And she said, ‘The Philistines are upon you, Samson!’ And he awoke from his sleep and said, ‘I will go out as at other times and shake myself free.’ But he did not know that the Lord had left him.”

Judges 16:20

“For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, ‘In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.’

“But you were unwilling, and you said, ‘No! We will flee upon horses’; therefore you shall flee away; and, ‘We will ride upon swift steeds’; therefore your pursuers shall be swift.”

Isaiah 30:15-16

How to sap your strength

1. Love without discernment
2. Play without purpose
3. Confide without kinship
4. Live without gratitude

“And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.”

Judges 16:21-22

- Samson is a **symbol** of **Dagon's** superiority.

- Samson is a symbol of Dagon's superiority.
- Samson is a **means** of **Divine** judgment.

- Samson is a symbol of Dagon's superiority.
- Samson is a **means** of **Divine** judgment.

“O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once.”

Judges 16:28

- Samson is a symbol of Dagon's superiority.
- Samson is a means of **Divine** judgment.

“He had judged Israel twenty years.”

Judges 16:31

- His sinful choices led to his death.

- His sinful choices led to his death.
- His victories were pyrrhic and passing.

- His sinful choices led to his death.
- His victories were pyrrhic and passing.
- His body stayed in the grave.

Both Samson and Jesus ...

Both Samson and Jesus ...

- had angelic birth announcements.

Both Samson and Jesus ...

- had angelic birth announcements.
- were set apart with divine power.

Both Samson and Jesus ...

- had angelic birth announcements.
- were set apart with divine power.
- were betrayed, tortured, mocked.



Both Samson and Jesus ...

- had angelic birth announcements.
- were set apart with divine power.
- were betrayed, tortured, mocked.
- accomplished more in their deaths than in their lives.

Through his cross, Jesus  
“disarmed the rulers and authorities and put  
them to open shame by triumphing over  
them.”

Colossians 2:14-15

“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness.”

Colossians 1:13

“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

“Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

“He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.”

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18