

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- January 21, 2016
"Once-in-a-While Christian"

I was thinking of the expression "Once-in-a-While" today. It means occasionally. At times. It's like Babe Ruth bunting for a sacrifice instead of going for the fence. It's the Fighter Jet dropping a firecracker instead of the laser-guided bomb.

Being faithful "once-in-a-while" in God – given duty (secular or religious) is lukewarm oatmeal. It's hitting the big drive off the tee and missing the short putt. It's giving the great sales pitch and blowing the closing.

God offered Samson, the muscular Jew, the keys to the kingdom. God never wanted Samson to die early in life; He called Samson to live. But along the way, Samson short-circuited his lifeline. He strove mightily for mediocrity. Instead of pounding the Philistines, he pursued a non-Israelite woman. He chose to peep through the keyhole.

God offered Samson the championship. But Samson was content to stay a club fighter. Samson fell into the deadly trap of "occasional faithfulness," a "once-in-a-while" obedience to God.

As a child of God, ask yourself if you are a modern day Samson. Are you inconsistent with your walk and commitment to God? Samson didn't commit the sin of "once-in-a-while" overnight. It was gradual. It involved partial obedience from time to time.

You cannot be a "once-in-a-while" Christian. Following Christ is a full time commitment. Once-in-a-while, occasionally, won't hack it! That will not suffice. To be spasmodic is to invite disaster. To sit on the border of righteousness and unrighteousness is to court death. It didn't work for Samson. It has never worked for anyone else. It won't work for you.

The surest way to spiritual oblivion is to be a spasmodic Christian. Hot on Sundays but cold for the rest of the week. A saint on Sunday. A heathen on Monday.

Somewhere in eternity (I think), Samson roams in lonely memory repeating the words: "I could have been a champ! I could have done it all!" But because he was a "once-in-a-while" Christian, he ended with nothing. A whip on his back. Blinded. Wrists in iron shackles. Finally, a pre-mature death.

Samson had been a deliverer. . . at times. Once-in-a-while. How about you? Are you a fully committed Christian or are you following the deceptive road of the gradual or "once-in-a-while?" It's never too late. You can change the direction of your life and become a champion for God, for your family, and your workplace.

Have a blessed week. See you in church Sunday.
Pastor Sewdin