

Two Men; Two Sets of Choices; Two Destinies

From *REBOOT Combat Recovery Leader Handbook* – Evan & Jenny Owen¹

There are two figures in the Bible that are recognizable by most people: Samson – the wild strongman of ancient Israel, and David – Israel’s greatest king and warrior.

If you take the time to compare their lives, you will find a number of similarities, but a number of distinct contrasts too. The contrasts reflect their different mindsets, which governed their choices, which led to their very different destinies.

As you think back on what you know of their lives, and as you read this article, you’ll find two distinct sets of characteristics exhibited in these men. One set leads to healing, the other leads to destruction.

Obstructions to healing

- Pride
- Denial
- Fear

Facilitators to healing

- Humility
- Vulnerability
- Trust

How would pride, denial, and fear be obstructions to your own healing? How would humility, vulnerability and trust (especially in God) be advantages in your healing process?

Here are brief summaries of Samson and David’s stories:¹

SAMSON

Samson was a true fighter. He had over 1,000 kills on his record during battle, and he felt at home on the battlefield. But Samson was a loner. He never bothered to make friends. He preferred to be on the move and not stay in one place very long. He relished freedom and fought for independence at all times. Samson believed his security was found in his strength, so he never showed weakness. When he made mistakes, there was no one there to help him back up or catch him as he fell. He had a weakness for women, and this was his ultimate downfall. Samson died alone – blind, weak, and regretful of the choices he made.

David

David was a fighter and a musician. He was very popular and became a hero at a young age after toppling Goliath. He was a man who prayed often and wrote songs to the Lord. In fact, most of the Psalms are attributed to David. He had a close friend named Jonathan who was a trusted advisor in all things. But like Samson, David also had a weakness for women and even had a woman’s husband killed so he could have her for his own. However, when confronted with his shortcomings, he was humbled and shared his weaknesses with others and with God. Ultimately, David died surrounded by friends and family and was celebrated as one of the greatest leaders of Israel.

Based on these two summaries, identify the characteristics of David and Samson in the following exercise. Check the boxes that apply to one or the other – or both.

David	Samson	Characteristic
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He was a fighter.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He was a loner. He never bothered to make friends.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He had a close friend who was a trusted advisor in all things.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He relished freedom and sought to be independent at all times.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He had a weakness for women.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He prayed often and wrote songs to the Lord.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He believed security was found only in strength, so he never showed weakness.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He recognized his weaknesses and was humble when confronted with them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He died alone, regretting the choices he made.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	He died surrounded by friends and family, celebrated as a great leader.

From our first session together, we have been talking about soul wounds, and how they can be healed. We have advocated that you recognize God as the Healer, and make intentional choices to keep Him as the central focus in your quest for healing. This is not a new concept. It's as old as the Bible itself and central to its message.

God is supremely concerned about your healing, and He is leading you on a journey of wholeness. He's not behind you kicking your butt, driving you forward. He's in front of you, coaxing you, leading you, showing you the right path. Your job in this is to recognize His leading, make the choices to follow Him, and then take action.

Based on your willingness to do this, you are deciding whether to be a Samson or a David.

The promise in Jeremiah 29:11 should give us confidence:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans for welfare and not for calamity, to bring you a future and a hope."

God has plans for you. One of His top priority plans is to heal you – to bring you back to a place of strength, stability, and resourcefulness. Are you willing to make the big and small decisions to fit into His plans?

¹ Evan & Jenny Owens, *Reboot Combat Recovery Leader Handbook*, Copyright 2016 REBOOT Combat Recovery (www.rebootrecovery.com), pp. 24-26.