Judges 16:16, 20 *And when she [Delilah] pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. ...[20] 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. (ESV)*

At first glance one would think Sampson was incredibly dumb. Three times Delilah had tried to get him to reveal the secret of his strength and each time she acted on what Sampson had said. In each case he got away with it. But Delilah was persistent Day after day she pressed him constantly tempting him. Finally he gave in to the temptation and he revealed the secret to her. Rather than remove himself from the temptation... rather than running from the possibility of falling Sampson stayed right where he was and allowed the temptation to reach a point where he gave in. When he woke up Delilah had shaved his head. Sampson thought that he could go out and do what he had always done. But God had left him and he was not even aware of it. Those are devastating words. For the true Christian the Holy Spirit does not leave us, however, we may sin and grieve the Holy Spirit to the point where we do not hear His voice as we should. The Lord may choose to leave us to the consequences of our sin until we repent and seek to restore our relationship with Him.

PRAYER: Lord, God help me to turn away from temptation and to never get comfortable with it. Help me to seek your presence and guidance each day in every situation that I face.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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