**A Believer with Issues**

**(By Pastor Ricky Temple)**

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

(Romans 3:23, NKJV)

**Big Question**: How can you be a believer and have serious issues?

**Short Answer: Grace**

**Statement**: Most people are more patient with their issues than the issues of others!

**I. Old Testament Examples**

(Samson’s Backsliding Issues)

1. He had **naivety** issues (He believed what he saw)
2. He had **anger** issues
3. He had **forgiveness** issues
4. He had **relationship** issues
5. He had **looping issues (He backslid often)**
6. He had **listening** issues (See Judges 14:3, Must you go the uncircumcised...)
7. He had **hygiene** issues (He once gave his parents some suspect honey, Judges 14:5-6)
8. He had **falling in love** issues (He was always in love with a gang bang kind of women)
9. He had **abandonment** issues (Judges 14:19, he left after a dispute and went home)
10. He had **absent minded lust** issues (Judges 15:1-2, you must read it to believe it)
    * + 15 **After a while,** in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, “Let me go in to my wife, into her room.” But her father would not permit him to go in.**2 Her father said, “I really thought that you thoroughly ﻿hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. (NKJV)**

**II. Three Relationships That Slowly Changed**

**Samson’s Life and Options**

**1. His First relationship: A woman from Timnah that ended in strife and violence**

* + Judges 14:1–4 (NIV): 14 Samson went down to Timnah and **saw** there a young Philistine woman. 2 When he returned, he said to his father and mother, “I have **seen** a Philistine woman in Timnah; now **get her for me as my wife.**”

**Note His Parents Warned Him:**

* + 3 His father and mother replied, “Isn’t there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? **Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?**” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me. **She’s the right one for me.”** 4 (His parents did not know that this was from the Lord, who was seeking an occasion to confront the Philistines; for at that time they were ruling over Israel.) (NKJV)

**Note**: **She ends up murdered** because he destroyed the Philistine’s crop (Judges 15:5-6, NKJV)

* + 6 Then the Philistines said, “Who has done this?” And they answered, “Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion.” ﻿**So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.**

**2. His Second Relationship: A Prostitute From Gaza (Judges 16:1, NKJV)**

* + 16 Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.

**3**. **His Third Relationship Delilah:** She betrayed him for money and got him arrested

**Note: He fell asleep with the wrong person (Judges 16:18-22)**

* + 18 When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.” **So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.** 19 ﻿Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then ﻿she began to torment him, and his strength left him. 20 And she said, “The Philistines are upon you,

**Note: He woke up from his sleep with less than he started with:**

* + 20 Samson!” So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the Lord ﻿had departed from him.21 Then the Philistines took him and ﻿put out his ﻿eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. **They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. 22 However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.**

**Note: A Bonus Example:**

**III. Elijah Had Emotional Issues (Just Mention)**

**Text:**1Kings17- 2Kings 2

1. He had **depression** issues (He wanted to die and quit)
2. He had **abandonment** issues (He felt he was all alone)
3. He had **fatigue** issues (He worked until he was exhausted)
4. He had **perspective** issues (He could only see things from one perspective)

**IV. New Testament Examples**

**Peter a Religious Leader had Issues** **(Just Mention)**

1. He had **fighting** issues (He cut off a man’s ear, assault with a deadly weapon) John 18:10
2. He had **cursing** issues (When cornered he cussed) Matthew 26:74-75
3. He had **racism** issue (He struggled with ‘THEM’ Acts 10) Galatians2:11-14

**V. The Corinthian’s Issues (Just Mention)**

1. They had **strife** issues (There was always something going on)
2. They had **litigation** issues (They sued each other)
3. They had **incest** issues (They had no sexual boundaries)
4. They had **adultery** issues (They had no marriage boundaries)
5. They had **fornication** issues (I have seen a lot of people struggle with this issue)

**Conclusion**: **How do you deal with all these issues?**

**1. Confess: Tell Yourself the Truth**

* 1 John 1:9–10 (NIV): 9 If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.  If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**2. Don’t Wait Until There Are Only Bad Options: Back to Sampson**

**Note: His Death**

* Judges 16:28–31 (NIV): 28 Then **Samson prayed** to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. **Please, God,** strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.”
* 29 Then **Samson reached toward the two central pillars** on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,
* 30 Samson said, “**Let me die with the Philistines!”** **Then he pushed with all his might**, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.
* 31 Then his brothers and his father’s whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.

**Closing Question: How do you deal with people that have issues in your world?**

1. Give them time
2. Remember when you were bound with an issue
3. Remember the Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:12) …  
   THIS FREED ME FROM FEELING THAT JUST ONE MORE CONVERSATION OR MENTION WILL DO IT!