

"And Samson Went Down To Timnath, And Saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines. And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, 'I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.'" Judges 14:1-2 KJV



Samson's downfall was the result of his gaze. He went "down to Timnath." The word "down" used in the Hebrew text literally means to "subdue or take down." "Timnath" means to "enroll or allot." Strongman Samson, on a higher elevation, looked down instead of up, and was "subdued" by his gaze. It was "all downhill from there." God Still Gave Samson strength against the enemy, but his path became a downward spiral to his ruin and death. Many strong believers begin righteously and end disastrously, because they first looked down and then "went down." Focus is a conscious decision. You may glance a direction if startled, but continued gaze requires conscious choice. Believers are warned, "*Look not at the things which are seen, but at The Things Which Are NOT SEEN: for the things which are seen are temporal; but The Things Which Are NOT SEEN are Eternal. Faith Is The Substance of Things Hoped For, The Evidence of Things NOT SEEN.*" Faith requires a singular "focus" upon the singular God!. "*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He Shall Give thee the desires of thine heart. Set your affection on Things Above, not on things on the earth. GIVING ALL DILIGENCE, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*" The "diligent" addition of "these things" is enabled by prayer "without ceasing," and meditating on God's Word "Day AND Night." Diligence is determined purposeful focus; a gift you give yourself. "*He that lacketh these things is BLIND, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he Was Purged from his old sins. For if these things be in you, and abound, THEY MAKE YOU that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" What is capturing your gaze? Lust or Truth?

The path to Timnath spirals down,
It's known by those who look around,
Their downward gaze provokes their steps,
Which always surely end in death! –CGP

Choices are determined by desire and desire by focus. This is a basic law of advertising. Guys like girls so they sell cars to guys using pretty girls to create desire by association. What draws the gaze? The car or the girl? At what are you gazing? Lenses restrict field of vision to a singular focus. Without them, field of vision is wider, but unfocused. You think in pictures and then, only one at a time. You can browse through many quickly, but you only remember ones that hold your attention and focus. "Out of sight out of mind." You only focus on one item and are "blind" to all else. Ask my wife about how easy it is to talk to me if I'm focused on a project. Faith in God's Word brings God into focus! Are you looking "down" on Timnath? If you look "down," you'll go "down!" If you go "down," you'll want what's "down!" What is your heart's "focus?" Timnath always looks pretty from the mountaintop. Everest climbers use goggles to protect their eyes. Maybe God keeps us in the valley, because we're not wearing Faith's eye protection!

"By Faith Abraham, when he Was Called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an Inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By Faith he sojourned in the Land of Promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same Promise: For he LOOKED for A City which hath foundations, Whose Builder And Maker Is God." Hebrews 11:8-10 KJV