



The Lord Is My Strength

Samson and the Gate
Judges 13:5, 16:2-3

Delbert and Lello giggled wildly as they headed toward the farmhouse. They couldn't wait to see Granny B's face when she saw Delbert. Delbert laughed and tossed his head back and forth. On top of Delbert's head was a wig of long hair. He had been waving it around all morning. Lello couldn't believe her eyes when she first saw him. They decided they had to show Granny B.

"There's the farmhouse! Come on!" Delbert yelled, racing for the porch.

Granny B heard the loud footsteps bounding up the porch. She peeked out the screen door and couldn't contain her laughter.

"Delbert, is that you?" she asked, walking out onto the porch.

"Haw! It's me. Do you like my long hair? Today, I am Samson," Delbert explained, in the most serious voice he could muster.

"Oh I see, I see," Granny B responded, trying not to laugh.

Lello stopped smiling and looked confused. She asked, "Who's Samson?"

"Haw! I can tell you. My dad read me that story this morning," Delbert offered.

Granny B sat in the rocking chair and encouraged Delbert to continue.

"When Samson was born, God told his mother never to cut his hair. It grew very long. Just like this," Delbert said, as he started to wave his hair around again.

Lello giggled as Granny B added, "Yes, and God made Samson very, very strong."

"How strong was he?" Lello asked curiously.

"Samson was so strong that when the bad guys locked the city gates..." Granny B began.

Lello interrupted, "Samson was locked inside? Oh, no! What did he do?"

"Samson walked right up to those great, big city gates. With all his mighty strength, he lifted them up and carried them away," Delbert answered.

"Baa! Samson *was* strong!" Lello exclaimed.

Granny B nodded. "Yes, he was strong because God gave him strength. God makes us strong, too!"

Lello studied the wig on Delbert's head a moment before asking, "Do you have to have long hair to be strong?"

Delbert waved his hair around again, causing Lello and Granny B both to smile. Granny B answered, "No, little one. The Bible tells us 'I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.'"

"Haw! How does that go again?" Delbert asked.

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength," Granny B repeated.

"Granny B, who is Him?" Lello asked quietly.

"Jesus," Granny B answered gently and rubbed behind Lello's ears.

"Lello! Would you like to pretend you are Samson? I'll even let you try on my wig," Delbert suggested.

"Baa! I'd like that," Lello said excitedly.

Granny B helped Lello put the wig on and laughed as Lello and Delbert each showed their muscles as they lifted an imaginary gate.