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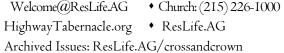
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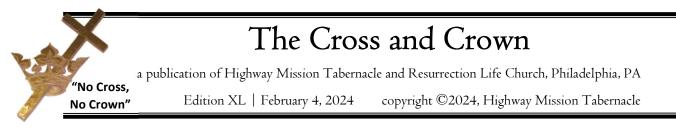
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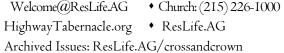
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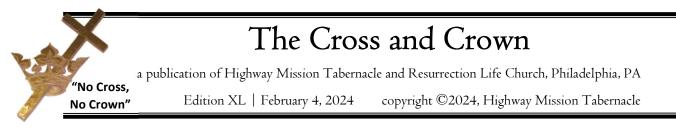
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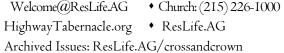
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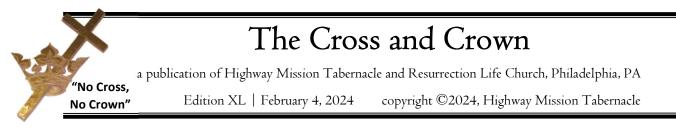
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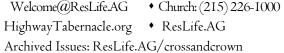
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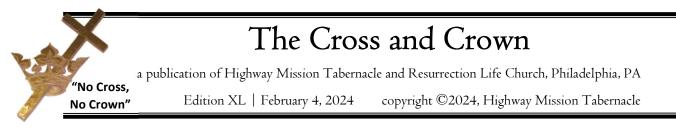
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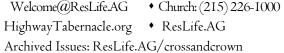
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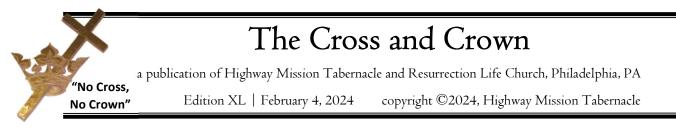
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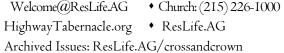
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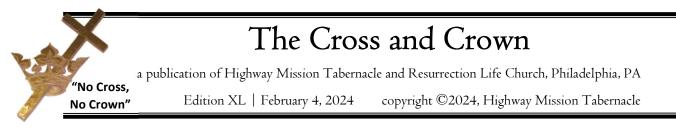
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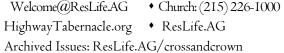
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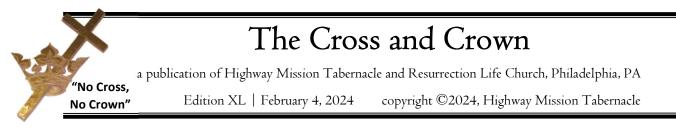
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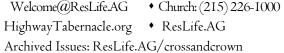
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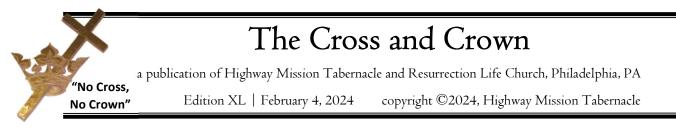
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What I see in the Bible and in the church is that very few people turn from serving God into rebelling against him overnight. Usually, rebellion results from a process of drifting – which is often so gradual that the person drifting doesn't realize how far he's regressed from where he used to be.

We read Samson's story and see that he lost his superhuman power the moment Delilah cut his hair, but have you considered the other steps in his decline? The haircut was only the last in a series of violations of his Nazirite vow. The instantaneous result was, in fact, the consequence of a prolonged period of drifting.



In Samson's first battle after his hair was cut, he thought that he'd be able to

go out as he had before, but "he did not know that the Lord had left him." (Judges 16:20) What a tragic and cautionary tale! We must take care in our relationship with God, staying close to him and allowing his Spirit to confront and correct us.

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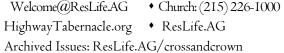
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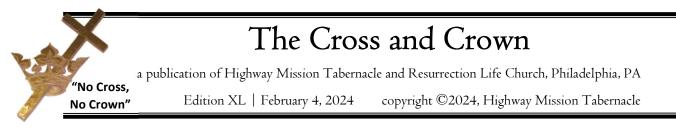
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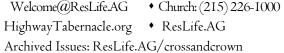
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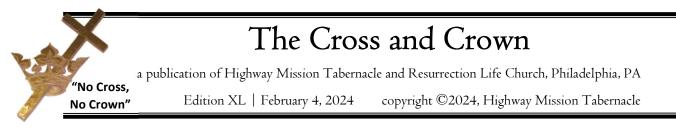
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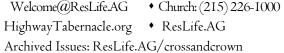
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