

Judges: Broken Heroes/Faithful God

JUDGES 7

Faith Is The Victory

1 John 5:4 (CSB)

Everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.

1. God tests our faith (Jdg. 7:1–8)

God tests our faith for at least two reasons:

1. To show us whether our faith is real or counterfeit.
2. To strengthen our faith for the assignments He's set before us.

Judges 7:1-2 (NLT)

So Jerub-baal (that is, Gideon) and his army got up early and went as far as the spring of Harod. The armies of Midian were camped north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. 2 The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength."

2 Chronicles 26:15b–16

His fame spread far and wide, for the Lord gave him marvelous help, and he became very powerful. But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall.

2 Corinthians 12:10

"For when I am weak, then am I strong."

Judges 7:3 (NLT)

3 Therefore, tell the people, "Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home." So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only

Deuteronomy 20:8

"Is anyone afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his fellow soldiers will not become disheartened too."

Judges 7:4-7 (NLT)

4 But the Lord told Gideon, "There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not."

5 When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the Lord told him, "Divide the men into two groups. In one group put all those who cup water in their hands and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all those who kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream."

6 Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream.

7 The Lord told Gideon, “With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home.” So Gideon collected the provisions and rams’ horns of the other warriors and sent them home. But he kept the 300 men with him.

- **GOD USES A DIFFERENT TYPE OF MATH THAN US!**

7 “With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites”.

2. God encourages our faith (Jdg. 7:9–15a)

- **God gave Gideon another promise (v. 9)**

Judges 7:9 (NLT)

That night the Lord said, “Get up! Go down into the Midianite camp, for *I have given* you victory over them!”

- **God gave Gideon another sign (vv. 10–14).**

Judges 7:10-14 (NLT)

But if you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah. 11 Listen to what the Midianites are saying, and *you will be greatly encouraged*. Then you will be *eager* to attack.”

So Gideon took Purah and went down to the edge of the enemy camp. 12 The armies of Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east had settled in the valley like a swarm of locusts. Their camels were like grains of sand on the seashore—too many to count!

13 Gideon crept up just as a man was telling his companion about a dream. The man said, “I had this dream, and in my dream a loaf of barley bread came tumbling down into the Midianite camp. It hit a tent, turned it over, and knocked it flat!”

14 His companion answered, “Your dream can mean only one thing—God has given Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite, victory over Midian and all its allies!”

Judges 7:15 (NLT)

When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship before the Lord.

- **A successful warrior must first be a sincere worshiper.**

3. God honors our faith (Jdg. 7:15b–25)

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”

- **God gave him wisdom to prepare the army (7:15b–18).**

Judges 7:15b-18 (NLT)

Then he returned to the Israelite camp and shouted, “Get up! For the Lord has given you victory over the Midianite hordes!” 16 He divided the 300 men into three groups and gave each man a ram’s horn and a clay jar with a torch in it.

17 Then he said to them, “Keep your eyes on me. When I come to the edge of the camp, do just as I do.
18 As soon as I and those with me blow the rams’ horns, blow your horns, too, all around the entire camp, and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon!’”

17 “**Watch me,**” he told them. “**Follow my lead.** When I get to the edge of the camp, **do exactly as I do.** (NIV)

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

John 1:42 (CSB).

“**You are** Simon [“a hearer”]....**You will be** called Cephas [“a rock”]

- **God gave him courage to lead the army (vv. 19–22).**

Judges 7:19-22 (NLT)

19 It was just after midnight, after the changing of the guard, when Gideon and the 100 men with him reached the edge of the Midianite camp. Suddenly, they blew the rams’ horns and broke their clay jars. 20 Then all three groups blew their horns and broke their jars. They held the blazing torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands, and they all shouted, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!”

21 Each man stood at his position around the camp and watched as all the Midianites rushed around in a panic, shouting as they ran to escape.

22 When the 300 Israelites blew their rams’ horns, the Lord caused the warriors in the camp to fight against each other with their swords. Those who were not killed fled to places as far away as Beth-shittah near Zererah and to the border of Abel-meholah near Tabbath.

- **God gave him opportunity to enlarge the army (vv. 23–25)**

Judges 7:23-25 (NLT)

23 Then Gideon sent for the warriors of Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh, who joined in chasing the army of Midian. 24 Gideon also sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim, saying, “Come down to attack the Midianites. Cut them off at the shallow crossings of the Jordan River at Beth-barah.”

So all the men of Ephraim did as they were told. 25 They captured Oreb and Zeeb, the two Midianite commanders, killing Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. And they continued to chase the Midianites. Afterward the Israelites brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was by the Jordan River.