

THE PIT OF CONFORMITY

The Art of Being Unordinary: Week 1

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“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2, CSB)

“Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!” “Sir,” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The Lord brought us up out of Egypt’? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.” Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!” “But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”” (Judges 6:11–15, NLT)

HOW TO FIND MYSELF IN A PIT.

3 TRAPS:

1. THE COMPARISON TRAP.
2. THE CLASS TRAP.
3. THE CONVERSATION TRAP.

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Proverbs 18:21, NIV84)

HOW TO GET OUT OF THE PIT

I NEED TO:

1. LISTEN TO GOD.

"The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, 'Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!'" (Judges 6:12, NLT)

"When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he cried out, 'Oh, Sovereign LORD, I'm doomed! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!'" (Judges 6:22, NLT)

"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13, ESV)

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27, NLT)

"The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4–7, CSB)

"Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us." (2 Timothy 3:16–17, MSG)

NEXT STEP

COMPLETE FIRST & SECOND BASE

2. LOOK OUTSIDE MYSELF.

"Then Gideon said to God, 'If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised,'" (Judges 6:36, NLT)

"It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows." (Galatians 5:13, MSG)

"... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28, NIV84)

"To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22, CSB)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8, NLT)

NEXT STEP

COMPLETE THIRD BASE AND HOME

3. LEAN ON FAITH.

"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. 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!' 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. 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 . . ." (Judges 7:19–22, NLT)

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7, NLT)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:5–6, NLT)

"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!" (Isaiah 26:3, NLT)

NEXT STEP

GROWTH TRACK