

GIDEON: FROM WHINER TO WARRIOR

Right in the Eye: Part 4 Judges 6-7

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“How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets.” (Hebrews 11:32, NLT)

HOW GOD TRANSFORMS US

1. STEP ONE: AFFIRMATION: God shows me who I really am.

*“One day the angel of GOD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, whose son Gideon was threshing wheat in the winepress, out of sight of the Midianites. The angel of GOD appeared to him and said, **“GOD is with you, O mighty warrior!”**” (Judges 6:11–12, The Message)*

- Gideon's REACTION.

*“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.” ... “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 6:13, 15, NLT)*

- God's RESPONSE.

*“Then the LORD turned to him and said, **“Go with the strength you have**, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!” ... **“I will be with you**. And **you will destroy the Midianites** as if you were fighting against one man.” (Judges 6:16, NLT)*

2. STEP TWO: REVELATION: God shows me who He really is.

- His PATIENCE.

*“Gideon replied, “If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the LORD speaking to me. **Don't go away** until I come back and bring my offering to you.” He answered, **“I will stay here** until you return.” Gideon hurried home. He cooked a young goat, and with a basket of flour he baked some bread without yeast. Then, carrying the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, he brought them out and presented them to the angel, who was under the great tree.” (Judges 6:17–19, NLT)*

- His **POWER**.

*“The angel of God said to him, “Place the meat and the unleavened bread on this rock, and pour the broth over it.” And Gideon did as he was told. Then the angel of the LORD touched the meat and bread with the tip of the staff in his hand, and fire flamed up from the rock and consumed all he had brought. And the angel of the LORD disappeared. 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 6:20–22, NLT)*

- His **PURPOSE**.

*“It is all right,” the LORD replied. “Do not be afraid. You will not die.” And Gideon **built an altar** to the LORD there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means “the LORD is peace”). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.” (Judges 6:23–24, NLT)*

3. STEP THREE: **EXAMINATION**: God molds me into who I need to become.

3 Ways God May Test You

- **SPIRITUALLY**.

*“That night the LORD said to Gideon, “Take the second bull from your father’s herd, the one that is seven years old. **Pull down your father’s altar to Baal, and cut down the Asherah pole** standing beside it. **Then build an altar to the LORD** your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully. **Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering** on the altar, using as fuel the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down.” (Judges 6:25–26, NLT)*

- **EMOTIONALLY**.

*“So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord had commanded. **But he did it at night because he was afraid** of the other members of his father’s household and the people of the town.” (Judges 6:27, NLT)*

- **PHYSICALLY**.

*“Early the next morning, as the people of the town began to stir, someone discovered that the altar of Baal had been broken down and that the Asherah pole beside it had been cut down. In their place a new altar had been built, and on it were the remains of the bull that had been sacrificed. The people said to each other, “Who did this?” And after asking around and making a careful search, they learned that it was Gideon, the son of Joash. **Bring out your son,**” the men of the town demanded of Joash. **He must die** for destroying the altar of Baal and for cutting down the Asherah pole.” But Joash shouted to the mob that confronted him, “Why are you defending Baal? Will you argue his case? Whoever pleads his case will be put to death by morning! If Baal truly is a god, let*

*him defend himself and destroy the one who broke down his altar!" **From then on Gideon was called Jerub-baal**, which means "Let Baal defend himself," because he broke down Baal's altar." (Judges 6:28–32, NLT)*

4. STEP FOUR: **TRANSFORMATION**: God empowers me to accomplish more than I ever thought possible.

*"Then **the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon with power**. He blew a ram's horn as a call to arms, and the men of the clan of Abiezer came to him." (Judges 6:34, NLT)*

"Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days..." (Luke 4:1–2, NLT)

"When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came. Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power..." (Luke 4:13–14, NLT)

ACTION STEPS

Growth Track

Reading Plan