



Judges 6:11-16

- If Gideon had not first won the battle against insecurity on the inside – he would never have been able to win the battle against the Syrians on the outside
- If you can't win the internal battle with yourself – you will never win the external battle with the enemy
- At this point the nation of Israel was in desperate need of their environment changing

Judges 6:1-2

The LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. 2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: [and] because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which [are] in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.

- God tries to remind them of where God has brought them from and where He can take them to

Judges 6:8-10

That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; 9 And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; 10 And I said unto you, I [am] the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell

- Sometimes when life is difficult – we just need to remember where God has brought us from so we can better see where we are going
- Before Israel could believe in Gideon as their champion – Gideon had to believe in himself as their champion

Reluctant Reason #1: Gideon Allowed Fear to be More Powerful than Faith

Judges 6:11

And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which [was] in Ophrah, that [pertained] unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide [it] from the Midianites.

- Fear will cause you to do things you would not normally do
- Fear will take you places you would not normally go
- Fear is the most popular weapon used by the enemy against those who are called by God to be a champion
- Fear is that looming giant in your mind that is keeping you from coming out in the open with what God has called you to do

Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God [is] with thee whithersoever thou goest

Psalms 27:1

The LORD [is] my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD [is] the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

- Fear is your imagination running out of control
- You have been given a creative imagination – but fear is the misuse of that imagination that God has given to you
- Because fear had him locked into a place that was not meant to produce a quality crop

Philippians 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

- The Greek word translated “careful” in Philippians 4:6 means “to be pulled in different directions.”
- The Anglo Saxon word for worry: to strangle – to choke off
- Get out of the winepress of fear and become a champion of faith

Reluctant Reason #2: Gideon Allowed His History to be More Powerful than His Destiny

Judges 6:12, 15

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD [is] with thee, thou mighty man of valour. ... 15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family [is] poor in Manasseh, and I [am] the least in my father's house.

Champions choose God as the sole source of their identity

The LORD [is] with thee, thou mighty man of valour

- God didn't call him what he was at the moment – God called him what he knew he would one day be
- Because at this moment Gideon is the exact opposite of a mighty man of valor
- He is not a warrior – he is not a champion
- He is living in a spiritually backslidden nation and even more than that – living in an idolatrous backslidden family

Judges 6:25

Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that [is] by it:

- Not only is his family idolatrous and living in spiritual darkness

Judges 6:15

...behold, my family [is] poor in Manasseh, and I [am] the least in my father's house

- They are living in abject poverty – a family on the wrong side of the economic spectrum

But in the midst of an idolatrous – Baal worshipping family

- In the midst of living in an environment of spiritual darkness
- God does not qualify you based on your history – He qualifies you based on your destiny
- Stop living up to what everyone else says you are – it is time to start living up to what God says you are

- You are living according to the story you have been told all of your life – it is time to rewrite the story
- You have been living according to the story of your physical family when you should be living according the story of your spiritual family

You say – but that is the story I was born with

- That is why you are born again by the grace of God – because when you are born again – the story written at your physical birth is gone and now you have a brand new story
- That is why Jesus said “You must be born again!”
- You can’t just add Jesus to your story and expect it to get better – He has to completely rewrite your story

**Reluctant Reason #3:
Gideon Was Reluctant Because He Allowed the Present
to be More Powerful than the Promise**

Judges 6 13

And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where [be] all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

- Gideon allowed the circumstance with which he was surrounded to overshadow the promise of God delivering them
- You cannot allow the current reality of your situation to take your eyes off of God’s promise to deliver you
- The enemy would like you to think that your current reality is permanent
- The only thing in your life that is permanent is the promise of Jesus when He said

Hebrews 13:5

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee

- The only thing permanent in life is the promise of God when He said

2Corinthians 12:9

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

- Your current reality is not your future finality
- Look how Jesus responded to Gideon – He didn’t even address what Gideon had said

Judges 6:14

And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

Get up Gideon and stop complaining about how bad things are right now

- Get up and stop complaining about how impoverished you are
- Get up and stop talking about the Midianites always invading your country
- Get up – because you are the one who is going to turn this thing around
- I have put my power in you – I have put my calling on you – I have given you what you need to turn this reality around

I believe what the Lord is saying to you today is simple

- Stop sitting around and complaining about how bad you have it right now
- Stop talking about how much the enemy is doing in your life right now
- Stop giving credit to the devil for how he is destroying your family and your finances

God is saying – Get up – because I have given you the power to turn things around

- My anointing is in you – my calling is on you
- You just have to get up – you just have to believe that I have given you what you need to turn things around