

From Weakness to Valiance

April 6, 2025

IEIC-02 – Increased Experience/Capacity Series

Review

- Capacity – defined
- Increased Capacity – able to...
 - Receive more
 - Do more
 - Withstand more
 - Have greater function
- Luke 5:1-11

Experiences and Capacities

- Farm to Ministry
- 2018 – “Next” – Successful Pastoral Succession
- 1 Samuel 16

From Weakness to Valiance – Gideon Judges 6-8

- Israelites did evil – handed over to Midianites for 7 years
- They cried out to the Lord
- Angel of the Lord to Gideon – “Mighty Hero, the Lord is with you”
 - NASB – “Valiant Warrior”
 - God’s view of Gideon’s capacity
- Response
 - With us?...the Lord has abandoned us!
 - My Clan is the weakest, and I am the least in my entire family
- I will be with you – you will destroy the Midianites like fighting against one man
 - Prove it – show me a sign
 - Fire consumes the sacrifice
- 6:33 - Alliances forms against Israel
- The Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon with power
- Show me another sign X2
- Too many warriors – you’ll take the credit
 - Reduced from 32,000 to 10,000
 - Reduced from 10,000 to 300

- Another sign – the Midianite’s dream
- The Lord has given you victory over the Midianite hordes
- The Lord caused the warriors to fight against each other
- Judges 8:22–23 (NLT) — 22 Then the Israelites said to Gideon, “Be our ruler! You and your son and your grandson will be our rulers, for you have rescued us from Midian.” 23 But Gideon replied, “I will not rule over you, nor will my son. The Lord will rule over you!
- Forty years of peace in the land
- The Word of the Lord – Valiant Warrior
- Increased experience - Increased capacity
- As the Lord speaks to you, and opens doors of opportunity – don’t think differently of yourself than what God thinks about you
- Philippians 4:13 (NLT) — 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.