

**MANO** 

[ **GIDEON : SESSION 5 : FINISH STRONG** ]

# **I AM A MAN.**

**God has called me, gifted me,  
empowered me, and positioned  
me to lead myself, my family,  
& my community.**

## **TODAY I CHOOSE TO . . .**

- Cry Out**
- Destroy the Lie**
- Believe the Truth**
- Fight like Hell**
- Finish Strong**

# FINISH STRONG.

*“Finishing is better than Starting.” - Solomon*

## Judges

8:22 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!

## Finish with INTEGRITY.

**TRUTH :: integrity happens ONE CHOICE at a time.**

24 However, I do have **one request** - that each of you give me an earring from the plunder you collected from your fallen enemies.” (The enemies, being Ishmaelites, all wore gold earrings.) 25 “Gladly!” they replied. They spread out a cloak, and each one threw in a gold earring he had gathered from the plunder. 26 The weight of the gold earrings was forty-three pounds, not including the royal ornaments and pendants, the purple clothing worn by the kings of Midian, or the chains around the necks of their camels. 27 **Gideon made a sacred ephod from the gold** and put it in Ophrah, his hometown. But soon all the Israelites prostituted themselves by worshipping it, and **it became a trap** for Gideon and his family.

**TRUTH :: compromise happens ONE CHOICE at a time.**

**Q : where are you most tempted to compromise?**

<sup>28</sup> That is the story of how the people of Israel defeated Midian, which never recovered. Throughout the rest of Gideon's lifetime - about forty years - there was **peace in the land.**

**TRUTH :: OBEDIENCE precedes peace.**

<sup>29</sup> Then Gideon son of Joash returned home. <sup>30</sup> He had seventy sons born to him, for he had many wives. <sup>31</sup> He also had a concubine in Shechem, who gave birth to a son, whom he named Abimelech. <sup>32</sup> Gideon died when he was very old, and he was buried in the grave of his father, Joash, at Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer.

<sup>33</sup> As soon as Gideon died, the Israelites prostituted themselves by worshiping the images of Baal, making Baal-berith their god. <sup>34</sup> **They forgot the LORD their God**, who had rescued them from all their enemies surrounding them.

## **Finish with INFLUENCE.**

**TRUTH :: Influence happens ONE PERSON at a time.**

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### **3 Steps to Finish Strong.**

- 1. STOP** doing anything that is destructive or distractive.
- 2. START** doing anything that brings life and peace.
- 3. KEEP** doing anything that moves you closer to God.

# Questions and Actions.

Q :: What are your top 3 distractions / temptations?

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Q :: It's easy for me to compromise when . . .

Q :: The best way to influence my family is to . . .

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**Prayer** :: "You, O LORD, have always been my rescuer and my redeemer. There is nothing more pleasing than you, and I commit **today** and the **rest of my days** to finishing what you started in me. Amen & Right On."

**Action** :: **Identify the ONE THING . . .**

- that you need to **STOP** doing.
- that you need to **START** doing.
- that you need to **KEEP** doing.

# Notes.