

## ***Believing Beyond Believing Beyond Your Rut***

***Judges 6:1-24***

### ***Five Signs You Are Stuck in a Rut***

- ***You don't have energy***
- ***You're not excited for the day***
- ***You fantasize about getting away (and not just away on vacation).***
- ***You stay in your comfort zone***
  - ***Even though you think you'd be happier if you made a change, it's more comforting to stay the same and mope about it.***
- ***You're not getting ahead***

### ***ONE THING***

***The Lord is ready to RELAUNCH your life beyond the stale routines of FAILURE and FUTILITY into an exciting and powerful FUTURE!***

### ***1. The Lord SEES your PAIN and is ready to take your PROBLEM***

***Judges 6:2–6 (ESV) — And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.***

***Israel was in a desperate place...***

***Every time they attempted to get ahead the Midianites would take them down...***

### ***Six Steps to Climbing out of a Rut***

***1. Get Out of DENIAL and accept your situation***

***2. Uncover the real CAUSE for the Rut***

***What was the cause of Israel's "rut"?***

***Judges 6:1 (ESV) — The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.***

**Israel had not completely turned away from God, they had just moved the Lord into the place of One among many...**

**Reality #1 – It's not going to be EASY ... but if it was EVERYONE would do it!**

## **2. The Lord KNOWS your PURPOSE and is ready to give His POWER**

**Judges 6:11–13 (ESV) — Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” 13 And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.”**

## **3. Quit making EXCUSES and start setting GOALS**

**Judges 6:14–16 (ESV) — And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”**

## **4. Shift your SELF-talk to GOD-talk**

**Listen again to the way the Angel of the Lord addresses Gideon...**

**Judges 6:12 (ESV) — And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.”**

**Reality #2 – It's not going to make SENSE ... but if it did you wouldn't need FAITH!**

## **3. The Lord RECEIVES your PRAISE and is ready to release His PEACE**

**Judges 6:17–21 (ESV) — 17 And he said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. 18 Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.” 19 So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. 20 And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. 21 Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.**

***As Gideon brought his present and set it before the Angel of the Lord, He showed His acceptance by consuming it in fire...***

***Gideon's response was sheer terror because he had seen the Angel of the Lord!***

***But look what happened next...***

***Judges 6:23–24 (ESV) — But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.***

***5. Create healthy attainable HABITS***

***6. Surround yourself with a SUPPORT team***

***Reality #3 – It's not going to be IMMEDIATE ... but if it was you wouldn't VALUE it!***

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Believing Beyond Your Rut  
Judges 6:1-24**

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1. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and is ready to take your \_\_\_\_\_

Reality #1 – It’s not going to be \_\_\_\_\_ ... but if it was \_\_\_\_\_ would do it!

2. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and is ready to release His \_\_\_\_\_

Reality #2 – It’s not going to make \_\_\_\_\_ ... but if it did you wouldn’t need \_\_\_\_\_!

3. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and is ready to take your \_\_\_\_\_

Reality #3 – It’s not going to be \_\_\_\_\_ ... but if it was you wouldn’t \_\_\_\_\_ it!

**Six Steps to Climbing out of a Rut**

1. **Get Out of \_\_\_\_\_ and accept your situation**

2. **Uncover the real \_\_\_\_\_ for the Rut**

3. **Quit making \_\_\_\_\_ and start setting \_\_\_\_\_**

4. **Shift your \_\_\_\_\_-talk to \_\_\_\_\_-talk**

5. **Create healthy attainable \_\_\_\_\_**

6. **Surround yourself with a \_\_\_\_\_ team**