

Powerful Prayers, Pt. 1
No More Fleeces – When You Have All You Need
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1. Gideon Already Had God’s Word (God’s Will)

Judges 6:14 (NLT) *“Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go with the strength you have and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you.’”*

God is not looking for what you don’t have, but He wants you to be faithful with what you do have.

TRUTH: Most of the time. We don’t need more direction; we need more obedience.

Struggles to Obedience:

- a. Self-doubt/Overthinking
- b. Desire for Perfect Clarity
- c. Spiritual Procrastination: Calling delay “discernment”
- d. Selective Obedience: doing the parts of God’s Word that feel comfortable or socially acceptable.

James 1:22 (NLT) *“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”*

2. Gideon Already Had God’s Promise

Judges 6:16 (NLT) *“The Lord said to him, ‘I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.’”*

Truth: Faith shouldn’t require a bunch of signs when it is connected to God’s Word and His promises.

Obstacles that stand against God’s Promise

- a. Fear of Failure
- b. Trusting Feelings Over Faith
- c. Re-Living Past Disappointments
- d. Need for Control

3. Gideon Received God Given Identity

When you dare to believe what God says about you, it sets you free to live up to that standard.

Judges 6:12 (NIV) *“When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon he said, ‘The Lord is with you Mighty Warrior.’”*

A False Identity Produces:

- a. Insecurity
- b. Comparison
- c. Past Labels
- d. Imposter Syndrome

2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*

1 Peter 2:8b-9 (NLT) *“They stumble because they do not obey God’s Word and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. 9 but you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal Priest, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of darkness into His wondrous light.”*

4. The Fleece Wasn’t Faith, It Was Fear

Judges 6:36-40 (NLT) *“Then Gideon said to God, ‘If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised, prove it to me in this way. I will put a wool fleece on the threshing floor tonight. If the fleece is wet with dew in the morning but the ground is dry, then I will know that you are going to help me rescue Israel as you promised.’” And that is just what happened. When Gideon got up early the next morning, he squeezed the fleece and wrung out a whole bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, ‘Please don’t be angry with me, but let me make one more request. Let me use the fleece for one more test. This time let the fleece remain dry while the ground around it is wet with dew.’” So that night God did as Gideon asked. The fleece was dry in the morning, but the ground was covered with dew.”*

The Opposition to Bold Faith:

- a. Fear of Stepping Out Publicly
- b. Desire for Repeated Confirmation
- c. Comfort in Delay
- d. Spiritualizing Doubt

Just because God is patient with something doesn’t mean He is endorsing it.

5. Powerful Prayer, God I Will Obey What You Have Already Said

What if we prayed, “God give me the courage trust You and boldness to act on what you have already declared.”

Hinderances to This Powerful Prayer

- a. The Cost
- b. The Unknown
- c. Your Comfort

Where do you have fleeces instead of obedience?

- What has God already called you to do, but you realize you are being hesitant?
- Where are you delaying obedience, while waiting for “another sign”?
- What Fleece, are you laying out right now?

It’s time to stop negotiating with God and start being obedient to what God has already said