

FLAWED HEROES, FAITHFUL GOD
Judges 8:1-21
New Life Fellowship – Pastor Joe Green
Sunday, March 08, 2026

1. Our Battles... Are _____.

Judges 8:1 (NIV2011) *“Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, ‘Why have you treated us like this? Why didn’t you call us when you went to fight Midian?’ And they challenged him vigorously.”*

Judges 8:2-3 (NIV2011) *“But [Gideon] answered them, ‘What have I accomplished compared to you? Aren’t the gleanings of Ephraim’s grapes better than the full grape harvest of Abiezer?’ ³ God gave Oreb and Zeeb, the Midianite leaders, into your hands. What was I able to do compared to you?’ At this, their resentment against him subsided.”*

Judges 8:4 (NIV2011) *“Gideon and his three hundred men, exhausted yet keeping up the pursuit, came to the Jordan and crossed it.”*

Judges 8:5-6 (NIV2011) *“[Gideon] said to the men of Sukkoth, ‘Give my troops some bread; they are worn out, and I am still pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian.’ ⁶ But the officials of Sukkoth said, ‘Do you already have the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna in your possession? Why should we give bread to your troops?’”*

Judges 8:7 (NIV2011) *“Then Gideon replied, ‘Just for that, when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will tear your flesh with desert thorns and briars.’”*

Judges 8:8 (NIV2011) *“From there [Gideon] went up to Peniel and made the same request of them, but they answered as the men of Sukkoth had.”*

Judges 8:9 (NIV2011) *“So [Gideon] said to the men of Peniel, ‘When I return in triumph, I will tear down this tower.’”*

Judges 8:10 (NIV2011) *“Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with a force of about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of the armies of the eastern peoples; a hundred and twenty thousand swordsmen had fallen.”*

Judges 8:11 (NIV2011) *“Gideon went up by the route of the nomads east of Nobah and Jogbehah and attacked the unsuspecting army.”*

Judges 8:12 (NIV2011) *“Zebah and Zalmunna, the two kings of Midian, fled, but [Gideon] pursued them and captured them, routing their entire army.”*

2. Our Battles... Are _____.

Judges 8:13-16 (NIV2011) *“Gideon son of Joash then returned from the battle by the Pass of Heres. ¹⁴ He caught a young man of Sukkoth and questioned him, and the young man wrote down for him the names of the seventy-seven officials of Sukkoth, the elders of the town. ¹⁵ Then Gideon came and said to the men of Sukkoth, ‘Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you taunted me by saying, “Do you already have the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna in your possession? Why should we give bread to your exhausted men?”’ ¹⁶ He took the elders of the town and taught the men of Sukkoth a lesson by punishing them with desert thorns and briars.”*

Judges 8:17 (NIV2011) *“[Gideon] also pulled down the tower of Peniel and killed the men of the town.”*

Judges 8:18-19 (NIV2011) *“Then [Gideon] asked Zebah and Zalmunna, ‘What kind of men did you kill at Tabor?’ ‘Men like you,’ they answered, ‘each one with the bearing of a prince.’ ¹⁹ Gideon replied, ‘Those were my brothers, the sons of my own mother. As surely as the LORD lives, if you had spared their lives, I would not kill you.’”*

Judges 8:20 (NIV2011) *“Turning to Jether, his oldest son, [Gideon] said, ‘Kill them!’ But Jether did not draw his sword, because he was only a boy and was afraid.”*

Judges 8:21 (NIV2011) *“Zebah and Zalmunna said, ‘Come, do it yourself. As is the man, so is his strength.’” So Gideon stepped forward and killed them, and took the ornaments off their camels’ necks.”*