

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Ratna and Jothi Saja share a powerful message rooted in the story of Gideon, drawing from their own remarkable journey of faith. Pastor Ratna recounts how God miraculously healed Him from paralysis as a child, transforming His entire family from Hinduism to faith in Jesus Christ. From that foundation, they challenge the congregation to recognize that God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called, using ordinary, even fearful people to accomplish extraordinary things for His kingdom. The sermon centers on three key truths: God sees your potential rather than your past, God uses courageous people who are filled with the Holy Spirit, and God calls consecrated people who have removed the idols in their lives. Just as Gideon was hiding in fear yet God called Him a mighty man of valor, each believer is invited to step out of hiding, surrender fully to God, and trust that He who lives within them is greater than anything they face. The call to action is clear: stop believing the lies of the enemy, embrace your God-given identity, and commit to being a willing vessel for His purposes.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and willing spirits. Thank You for gathering us together and for the truth of Your Word that never returns void. As we discuss what You have spoken to us, we ask that You quiet the voice of fear and doubt in each of us. Open our eyes to see ourselves the way You see us. Give us ears to hear what You specifically want each person in this group to receive today. May Your Holy Spirit lead this conversation and draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one talent, gift, or skill you have that you feel like you do not use as much as you could, and why?

Key Verses

- Judges 6:12
- Acts 1:8
- Romans 8:37

- Philippians 4:13
- 1 John 4:4

Questions

- Pastor Ratna shared how God healed him as a child and called Him into ministry despite His family having no Christian background. Has there been a moment in your life when God showed up in an unexpected way that changed your direction? Share what that was like.
- The sermon highlighted that God sees your potential while people tend to see your past. Think of a biblical figure mentioned in the sermon (such as Rahab, Ruth, Moses, or Peter). Which one resonates most with you personally, and why?
- Gideon was hiding in the winepress when God called Him a mighty man of valor in Judges 6:12. In what areas of your life do you feel like you are currently hiding from what God is calling you to do?
- Pastor Jothi said we often believe the lies of the enemy more easily than we believe what God says about us. Why do you think that is, and what practical steps can we take to change that pattern?
- The sermon emphasized that God uses common, courageous, and consecrated people. Which of those three qualities do you feel is most lacking in your own walk with God right now, and what might that look like to develop?
- Acts 1:8 was referenced in connection with the Holy Spirit giving boldness and power for witness. How have you personally experienced the Holy Spirit giving you courage or strength in a situation where you felt inadequate?
- The sermon challenged the congregation to identify idols, not just physical objects but anything we love more than God, such as career, comfort, or hobbies. What is one thing in your life that might be competing with God for first place, and how does that affect your ability to be used by Him?
- Pastor Jothi closed by saying the growth of the church is not just the pastor's responsibility but belongs to every believer. What is one specific and practical way you could take personal responsibility for reaching someone in your community with the gospel this year?

Life Application

This week, set aside 15 to 20 minutes each day to pray and ask God one simple question: 'Lord, what do You see in me that I am not seeing in myself?' Write down what comes to mind. Then identify one area where fear or an idol has been holding you back from stepping into what God has called you to do. Take

one small, concrete step of obedience in that area before the week is over. It does not have to be big. It just has to be willing.

Key Takeaways

- God sees your potential, not your past. No matter your background, failures, or what others have said about you, God's view of you is defined by His purpose for your life, not your history.
- God uses common, ordinary people. He is not looking for the most educated, famous, or talented. He is looking for those who are committed and willing to be used.
- The Holy Spirit is the source of courage. Just as Gideon and Peter were transformed from fearful to bold when the Spirit came upon them, believers today need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to fulfill their calling.
- Consecration is essential to being used by God. Anything we place above God, whether comfort, career, or personal ambition, becomes an idol that limits His work in and through us.
- Surrender is the starting point. Every biblical figure mentioned in the sermon, from Moses to Rahab to Peter, became effective not because of their qualifications but because they surrendered their lives to God's purposes.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time together and for the truth that You see us not as we are but as who You are making us to be. We confess that fear, doubt, and the idols of everyday life have too often kept us from stepping into the calling You have placed on our lives. Right now, we choose to believe what You say about us. We are more than conquerors. We are chosen. We are filled with Your Spirit and equipped for every good work. Give each person in this group the courage to take one step of faith this week. Remove the idols. Silence the lies of the enemy. And let Your power be made perfect in our weakness. Use us, Lord, common as we are, to turn our corner of the world upside down for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.