



# August 17, 2025

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**BIG IDEA** – God initiates—even when we feel unworthy or unaware.

**Scripture Focus** – **Judges 6:12 NIV** When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “**The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.**”

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Whether you're young or old, if you've committed your life to Jesus, then He commands your life! Surrender means everything you are and everything you hope to be rests in His hands.

In this theme of *God's Calling*, here's the big truth: God loves when we make plans, dream dreams, and pursue the desires of our hearts... but He's the one who directs our steps. He makes our path straight—in His way, in His time.

**The precipice is that moment when you sense God asking you to be or do something that feels far beyond your ability—or even your understanding.** God calls whomever He wants, and it's a privilege not only to hear His voice but to obey it.

**From experience, I can tell you: whatever you think is a linear, a straight line in life, you'll discover it's more like a labyrinth—full of turns, surprises, and divine detours!**

**Who me?**

God sent a messenger to tell me that He had plans for my life. **Not everyone has this type of obvious, in-your-face, kind of experience.** Like I've said before. God spoke to me from the very beginning, so I was used to wrestling with heaven breaking into my life. **But this was different.**

The stranger at Melodyland. 17 years old, attending a church service in the middle of the week. Someone was staring at me; I could feel it. I told my friend Ed, and he thought I was just imagining it. Eventually, I forgot about it until I was climbing the stairs to exit the auditorium. Suddenly, someone tapped me on the shoulder – I knew it was him – the guy staring at me at during the time of worship. He said God spoke to him and told him to tell me that I would become a preacher of God's Word. I told Ed on the drive home. I told Robin that night. I told my older sister the next day. They all said, “I believe it.”

God used what is commonly known as a “**prophetic word**,” to start the process. The phrase is very old, very ancient, going back thousands of years.

### **A little history on prophetic words.**

- **God speaks the very first prophetic curse over the serpent**, “And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15 NLT
- **Noah speaks the second prophetic curse over his son**, Ham. “**Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham: “May Canaan be cursed! May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives.”** Genesis 9:25 NLT
- **We get all the way to Abraham, before we start seeing prophetic words become connected with a calling.**
  - Abraham has obviously married a hotty – Sarah is so stunningly beautiful that Abraham decides it's better to introduce her as his sister, rather than his wife. What does Sarai think about this? We don't know, but **I don't think she was so happy about it.**
  - God comes to the residing king Abimelech (He's over the region that Abraham has been camping) in a dream and says, “**You are a dead man, for that woman you have taken is already married!**” Genesis 20:3
  - Later on in verse 7, **God tells Abimelech something interesting about Abraham's calling.** “**Now return the woman to her husband, and he will pray for you, for he is a prophet.** Then you will live. But if you don't return her to him, you can be sure that you and all your people will die.” Genesis 20:7
- **Of course, these prophetic words are used throughout the Old Testament and continue to be use in the New Testament as well.**
- **In the DIG DEEPER notes there are notes and Bible references, plus a list of Old & New Testament people who God used to call, encourage, warn and even foretell the future. There are also notes on the Apostle Paul's teaching on the prophetic gifts.**
- **My intent isn't to teach on prophetic words in this series. Rather it is just to let you know that it is one of the ways people come to understand their own calling.**

### **The supernatural should always be naturally tested.**

- **Before we get into some of the amazing Biblical characters who were called by God, let's talk about how to make sure the supernatural callings can be naturally tested to see if they are true.**

- Even though it is a powerful and emotional moment, it is NOT WISE to just accept a prophetic word from someone without testing it!
- Even a dream, vision or supernatural voice should be examined and processed through prayer and confirmation from trusted friends.

### **Prophecy Must Be Tested and Weighed**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good.

- Paul warns against both rejecting prophecy and blindly accepting it.

- 1 Corinthians 14:29

- Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said.
- **Discernment is essential and prophecy must be evaluated by others in the community.**

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Let's look at two people in the Old Testament where God broke into their lives and told them exactly what they were to do and who they would become.

1. The would-be warrior - Gideon
  2. The twelve-year-old – Samuel
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### **How can I know the will of God?**

Gideon's story is often told because Gideon was so reluctant to believe the "Angel of the Lord."

The Angel of the Lord was the way the Bible describes God Himself in the first person of Jesus Christ, "pre-incarnate." Jesus appears in temporary human form in the Old Testament – it is also called a [theophany](#).

**Jesus labeled Gideon!**

"The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!" Judges 6:12

It may be popular today to deny being labeled or boxed in by someone calling you a student, a man or woman, a husband or wife, a pastor, teacher or whatever makes you feel stronger and self-identified as anti-establishment. Jesus did not call Gideon a warrior because that is who he had been or was at that moment. Jesus declared who Gideon would become.

**You can argue with the creator of the universe all you want, but you will feel very foolish trying to talk God out of what He has called you to be!**

**Gideon isn't known for his courage or valor; he's known for his negotiations with Jesus in the Old Testament.**

**Didn't Gideon put out a fleece to determine the will of God?**

**Yes, but first he kind of argued with Jesus about the condition of his country.**

**"Sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The Lord brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites." Judges 6:13**

**As very typical of God, Jesus did not answer Gideon's questions!**

**"Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" Judges 6:14**

**Just because we have questions does not mean that God has to answer them. Oftentimes God does not answer them.**

**Gideon boldly says this to God!**

**"Gideon replied, "If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the Lord speaking to me." Judges 6:17**

**Gideon brings a roasted goat stew and some unleavened bread to discuss this whole idea that God was going to help Israel by something Gideon will have to do.**

**Jesus tells him to lay out the meal on a rock and then Jesus touches it with his staff – VA VOOM – fire consumes everything! Judges 6:20-21.**

**God starts by telling Gideon to destroy his father's idols, he agrees but does so under the cover of night.**

**The fleece happens when the enemy countries started another attack. Gideon still lacking confidence in himself and faith in God asks for another sign.**

**'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." Judges 6:36-37**

Gideon asks for a sign from God three times and each time God was patient and proved that He was with Gideon.

- Consuming the meal (Judges 6:21)
- The wool fleece TWICE (which is where we get the name for “fleecing” the Lord). Judges 6:38-40.
- Prompting Gideon to spy on the enemy camp just in time to overhear one of the Midian warriors tell his friend about a strange dream. A large loaf of bread rolling down and flattening his tent – the interpretation, God is on Gideon’s side! Judges 7:10-15.

### Life Lesson #1: God Sees More in Us Than We See in Ourselves

Gideon didn’t see himself as a hero. He was afraid, unsure, and full of self-doubt. But God addressed him by his **future potential**, not his current fear. Many of us disqualify ourselves because of our past, weaknesses, or lack of confidence. But God calls us **based on His strength, not ours**.

*“The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” – Judges 6:12*

When we allow God to define us instead of our circumstances, we begin to see ourselves through His eyes. That’s the first step in choosing faith over fear.

### Life Lesson #2: Faith Often Requires Small Steps First

Before leading an army, Gideon had to take a smaller, personal step of obedience. God told him to tear down his father’s altar to Baal. Gideon did it but at night, because he was afraid of the townspeople (Judges 6:27).

Even though he was scared, **he still obeyed. Choosing faith doesn’t mean you’re never afraid.** It means **acting in obedience despite fear.** Sometimes, **God will give us small assignments to build our faith for bigger tasks ahead.**

### Life Lesson #3: Faith Grows Through Obedience

God knows we struggle with fear. That’s why He was patient with Gideon, confirming His promises multiple times through the fleece, the dream, and even a visit to the enemy camp. **God never rebuked Gideon for asking. Instead, He met him where he was.**

### Faith Over Fear Is always a Choice

The story of Gideon reminds us that **faith is not the absence of fear it’s the courage to act despite it.** Whether you’re facing personal challenges, feeling unqualified, or standing at a crossroads in life, you can take inspiration from Gideon’s journey.

## Twelve-year-old – Samuel



Robin and Georgie tell his story! **Samuel 3:1-14**

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon. One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!" "Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did. Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!" Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" "I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed." Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed. And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." Then the Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end. I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings."

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Whether you're young or old, twelve, twenty or eighty, if you've committed your life to Jesus, then He commands your life! I believe more now than ever, God has a purpose for everyone and will make it known to anyone that follows Him and listens to His voice.

Sure, when you're young there's pressure to know what you will be, where you'll work and maybe find it difficult to discover. I was there once! **Actually, I was there a few times. I trusted God and most of what I know now I have figured it out by looking backward, not forward.**

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If you are asking God what He has for you, we would like to join with you in prayer. Some of you may have even received a prophetic word, had a dream or

believed they have heard God. We'd like to hear that story and be a part of encouraging you in your quest.

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## SCRIPTURES

### **Genesis 3:15 NLT**

"And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

### **Genesis 9:25 NLT**

"Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham: "May Canaan be cursed! May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives."

### **Genesis 20:3**

"You are a dead man, for that woman you have taken is already married!"

### **Genesis 20:7**

"Now return the woman to her husband, and he will pray for you, for he is a prophet. Then you will live. But if you don't return her to him, you can be sure that you and all your people will die."

### **1 Thessalonians 5:19-21**

Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good.

### **1 Corinthians 14:29**

Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said.

### **Judges 6:12**

"The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"

### **Judges 6:13**

"Sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The Lord brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."

### **Judges 6:14**

"Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

### **Judges 6:17**

"If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the Lord speaking to me."

## Judges 6:11-18

Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!" "Sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The Lord brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites." Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!" The Lord said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man." Gideon replied, "If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the Lord speaking to me. Don't go away until I come back and bring my offering to you." He answered, "I will stay here until you return."

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## NOTES



### Prophetic Word

In the Bible, a **"prophetic word"** is a **message given by God—through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit—to a human messenger, for the purpose of revealing God's truth, will, or future plans.**

**It is more revealing truth for encouragement than predicting the future.** A prophetic word can:

- **Reveal God's heart** toward a person or situation.
- **Call people to repentance** or obedience.
- **Encourage, comfort, and strengthen** believers (1 Cor. 14:3).
- **Warn or prepare** for events yet to come.
- **Confirm God's direction** for an individual or group.

Biblically, the source is always **God Himself**, and it carries His authority (2 Pet. 1:21). A prophetic word may come through:

- **Spoken words** (delivered verbally to individuals or groups)
- **Written messages** (as in Scripture)
- **Symbolic acts** (e.g., Jeremiah's yoke, Ezekiel's visions)
- **Dreams or visions.**

"And **we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed**, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." **2 Peter 1:19.**



Referring to **2 Peter 1:10**, “Therefore, brothers, **be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election**, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.”

### Examples in the Old Testament

1. **Moses to Pharaoh** – “*Thus says the LORD: Let my people go, that they may serve me.*” (Exod. 5:1) – A prophetic declaration of God’s will.
2. **Nathan to David** – Confronted David about his sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:1–15).
3. **Isaiah’s Messianic Prophecy** – “*For to us a child is born...*” (Isa. 9:6–7) – Foretelling the coming Messiah.
4. **Elijah to Ahab** – Prophesied drought as judgment (1 Kings 17:1).
5. **Jeremiah’s Warning** – Told Judah of coming Babylonian captivity (Jer. 25:8–11).
6. **Joel’s Promise** – Foretold the outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28–29).

### Old Testament (Hebrew)

In the Hebrew Scriptures, there’s no direct single phrase identical to “prophetic word,” but the **concept** appears often using terms for *prophet* and *word*.

#### Key Hebrew terms:

- **נָבִיא (nāvī)** – “prophet” (one who speaks for God).
- **נְבוּאָה (nevû’āh)** – “prophecy” or “prophetic utterance.”
- **דָּבָר (dābār)** – “word,” “message,” “matter,” often referring to God’s word.

#### Examples where the concepts are linked:

1. **Jeremiah 1:4** – “*Now the word (dābār) of the LORD came to me, saying...*” – This is a prophetic word given directly to Jeremiah.
2. **2 Chronicles 36:12** – “*...he did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet (nāvī), speaking from the mouth of the LORD.*” – The prophet’s spoken message is God’s word.
3. **Isaiah 9:8** – “*The Lord sent a word (dābār) against Jacob, and it has fallen on Israel.*” – A prophetic pronouncement.

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### Examples in the New Testament

1. **Agabus to Paul** – Predicted famine (Acts 11:27–28) and Paul’s arrest (Acts 21:10–11).
2. **John the Baptist** – Proclaimed the coming of the Messiah (Matt. 3:1–3; John 1:29).
3. **Prophecy at Antioch** – Prophets encouraged and directed the church (Acts 13:1–3).
4. **Revelation to John** – The entire Book of Revelation is a prophetic word from Jesus (Rev. 1:1–3).
5. **Paul to Timothy** – References personal prophecies Timothy received, guiding his ministry (1 Tim. 1:18).
6. **Philip’s Daughters** – Four unmarried daughters who prophesied (Acts 21:9).

## New Testament (Greek)

Here we actually find the closest direct match to “prophetic word” in 2 Peter 1:19.

Key Greek terms:

προφητικός (prophētikos) – “prophetic,” pertaining to a prophet or prophecy.  
λόγος (logos) – “word,” “message,” “statement,” “revelation.”

2 Peter 1:19 (Greek)

καὶ ἔχομεν βεβαιότερον τὸν προφητικὸν λόγον

Transliteration: kai echomen bebaioteron ton prophētikon logon

Literal: “And we have the prophetic word made more sure...”

This is the only place in the New Testament where prophētikos (“prophetic”) directly modifies logos (“word”).



### The Apostle Paul on Prophecy

This summary outlines the Apostle Paul's teaching on the spiritual gift of prophecy. Paul saw prophecy as one of the most valuable gifts for the building up of the church. His writings offer theological clarity and practical instruction for how prophetic words are to function in the body of Christ.

#### 1. Prophecy Is a Spiritual Gift from the Holy Spirit

- 1 Corinthians 12:10 – “To another prophecy...”
- 1 Corinthians 12:28–29 – Prophets are appointed by God in the church.
- Romans 12:6 – “If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith.”

#### 2. Prophecy Is Meant to Strengthen the Church

- 1 Corinthians 14:3 – Prophecy is for strengthening, encouraging, and comforting others.
- 1 Corinthians 14:4–5 – Prophecy edifies the church; Paul prefers it in worship over uninterpreted tongues.

#### 3. Prophecy Is Accessible to All Believers

- 1 Corinthians 14:1 – “Eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.”
- 1 Corinthians 14:31 – “For you can all prophesy in turn...”

#### 4. Prophecy Must Be Tested and Weighed

- 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21 – “Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all.”
- 1 Corinthians 14:29 – “Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully...”

#### 5. Order, Clarity, and Love Govern Prophecy

- 1 Corinthians 13 – Prophecy without love is worthless.

- 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40 – God is a God of peace; prophecy should be orderly and edifying.

## 6. Prophecy Is Partial and Temporary

- 1 Corinthians 13:9–10 – “We know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes...”

### Summary Table

| Topic                        | Key Scriptures               | Summary   |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Prophecy is a spiritual gift | 1 Cor 12:10; Rom 12:6        | Given by the Spirit for the good of the church  |
| It builds up the church      | 1 Cor 14:3–5                 | Meant to strengthen, encourage, comfort         |
| Desired by all believers     | 1 Cor 14:1, 31               | Paul encourages everyone to pursue it           |
| Must be tested/discerned     | 1 Thess 5:19–21; 1 Cor 14:29 | Prophetic words should be weighed carefully     |
| Governed by love and order   | 1 Cor 13; 14:33, 40          | Prophecy must be loving, orderly, not chaotic   |
| Partial in nature            | 1 Cor 13:9–10                | It gives limited insight until perfection comes |



## New Testament Prophets: God Speaks Through Men and Women



### Male Prophets and Prophetic Moments

- **Zechariah** (Father of John the Baptist) – Luke 1:67–79  
Filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied a song of salvation.
- **John the Baptist** – Luke 3:2–18; John 1:29–34  
Proclaimed the coming of Jesus and called people to repentance.
- **Simeon** – Luke 2:25–35  
Prophesied over Jesus and Mary in the temple.
- **Jesus** – Matt 24; Luke 4:24; John 4:19  
Called a prophet; foretold future events and spoke with divine authority.
- **Peter** – Acts 2:14–21; Acts 5:1–11  
Declared fulfillment of Joel's prophecy; exposed Ananias and Sapphira's deceit.
- **Paul** – Acts 13:1–2; Acts 27:10, 21–26  
Spoke prophetically in mission work and during shipwreck.
- **Agabus** – Acts 11:27–30; Acts 21:10–11  
Foretold famine and Paul's arrest with prophetic symbols.
- **Unnamed Prophets** – Acts 13:1; Acts 15:32  
Prophets at Antioch and prophets Judas & Silas encouraged believers.

## Female Prophets and Prophetic Moments

- **Mary** (Mother of Jesus) – Luke 1:46–55  
The Magnificat – a Spirit-filled prophetic song.
- **Elizabeth** – Luke 1:41–45  
Filled with the Spirit, she blessed Mary and spoke of Jesus.
- **Anna the Prophetess** – Luke 2:36–38  
Spoke about Jesus to those waiting for redemption.
- **Daughters of Philip** – Acts 21:8–9  
Four daughters who prophesied.

## General Prophetic Activity in the Early Church

- **Pentecost Fulfillment** – Acts 2:17–18  
“Your sons and daughters will prophesy...” Joel’s prophecy fulfilled.
- **Spiritual Gifts** – 1 Corinthians 12:10  
Prophecy listed as a spiritual gift.
- **Instructions for Prophecy** – 1 Corinthians 14  
Encouragement and order for prophetic speech in the church.
- **Christ’s Gifts to the Church** – Ephesians 4:11  
Prophets are among leadership gifts given by Christ.
- **Revelation & Testimony** – Revelation 10:11; 19:10  
Prophecy central to John’s vision and Jesus’ testimony.

## Summary Table

| Name/Group          | Reference                | Description                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Zechariah           | Luke 1:67–79             | Prophesied about John and Jesus      |
| John the Baptist    | Luke 3; John 1           | Herald of the Messiah                |
| Simeon              | Luke 2:25–35             | Prophetic word over infant Jesus     |
| Anna the Prophetess | Luke 2:36–38             | Spoke about Jesus to all             |
| Mary & Elizabeth    | Luke 1:41–55             | Spirit-inspired prophetic praise     |
| Jesus               | Matthew 24; Luke 4:24    | Called and acted as a prophet        |
| Peter               | Acts 2; Acts 5           | Preached prophetically at Pentecost  |
| Paul                | Acts 13; Acts 27         | Guided churches prophetically        |
| Agabus              | Acts 11; Acts 21         | Gave predictive prophecy             |
| Philip’s daughters  | Acts 21:9                | Women known to prophesy              |
| Early Church        | Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 14 | Men and women encouraged to prophesy |



## Gideon's Calling

Gideon – [Biblehub.com](https://www.biblehub.com)

Gideon, a central figure in the Book of Judges, is renowned for his role as a judge and deliverer of Israel from the oppression of the Midianites. His account, primarily found in Judges 6-8, is a profound narrative of human doubt and divine assurance. Gideon's journey from skepticism to faith is a testament to God's patience and willingness to provide reassurance to those He calls.

### Background

During the period of the Judges, Israel repeatedly fell into cycles of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance. The Midianites, along with the Amalekites and other eastern peoples, had been oppressing Israel for seven years, devastating the land and impoverishing the Israelites (Judges 6:1-6). In response to Israel's cries for help, God chose Gideon, a man from the tribe of Manasseh, to deliver His people.

### Gideon's Initial Doubts

Gideon's doubts are first evident when the Angel of the LORD appears to him while he is threshing wheat in a winepress to hide it from the Midianites. The Angel greets him with the words, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior" (Judges 6:12). Gideon questions this greeting, expressing doubt about the LORD's presence and recalling the past miracles of deliverance, which seemed absent in his current plight (Judges 6:13).

Despite being called a "mighty warrior," Gideon sees himself as insignificant, citing his family's low status in Manasseh and his own position as the least in his father's house (Judges 6:15). This self-perception highlights his initial reluctance and lack of confidence in the divine calling.

### God's Assurance

In response to Gideon's doubts, God provides multiple assurances. First, the LORD promises His presence, saying, "Surely I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites as one man" (Judges 6:16). This promise of divine accompaniment is a recurring theme in Scripture, emphasizing that God's presence is sufficient for any task He assigns.

Gideon requests a sign to confirm the authenticity of his calling. He prepares an offering, and the Angel of the LORD miraculously consumes it with fire from a rock (Judges 6:17-21). This supernatural act reassures Gideon of God's power and presence.

## The Sign of the Fleece

Despite the initial assurance, Gideon seeks further confirmation through the well-known test of the fleece. He asks God to make a fleece of wool wet with dew while keeping the surrounding ground dry. God graciously complies. The next day, Gideon reverses the request, asking for the fleece to remain dry while the ground is covered with dew. Again, God fulfills the request (Judges 6:36-40). These signs serve to bolster Gideon's faith, demonstrating God's patience and understanding of human frailty.

## Preparation for Battle

As Gideon prepares to confront the Midianites, God further assures him by reducing his army from 32,000 to 300 men, ensuring that the victory would be attributed to divine intervention rather than human strength (Judges 7:2-7). To alleviate any lingering fear, God instructs Gideon to spy on the Midianite camp, where he overhears a soldier recounting a dream that foretells Gideon's victory (Judges 7:9-15). This final assurance emboldens Gideon to lead his men to a miraculous victory.

## Conclusion

Gideon's account is a powerful illustration of how God meets His people in their doubts and provides the assurance needed to fulfill His purposes. Through signs, promises, and divine intervention, God transforms Gideon's hesitance into bold faith, underscoring the truth that God's strength is made perfect in human weakness.

## Faith over Fear

In today's world filled with uncertainty, anxiety, and overwhelming pressure, choosing *faith over fear* can seem almost impossible. Yet, the Bible offers timeless stories that show us how God empowers ordinary people to do extraordinary things. One such story is that of **Gideon**, a man who started off afraid and doubtful but ended up leading Israel to victory. His life teaches us valuable lessons about trusting God, overcoming fear, and stepping into our calling even when we feel unqualified.

## Who Was Gideon?

Gideon's story is found in **Judges 6-8**. At a time when Israel was oppressed by the Midianites, Gideon was hiding in a winepress, threshing wheat in secret to avoid the enemy. He didn't see himself as a leader in fact, he told God, "*My clan is the weakest... and I am the least in my family*" (Judges 6:15, NIV). But God saw something different.

**An angel of the Lord appeared to him and called him a "mighty warrior." That encounter sparked the beginning of Gideon's journey from fear to faith.**

God uses unlikely people to do incredible things. When you choose to trust Him, even when you're afraid, you step into a life of purpose, impact, and divine favor.

### [30 Powerful bible verses about Gideon](#) -Gideon's Call

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#### **Samuel's Calling –**

##### **Where is Samuel's Calling in the Bible?**

 1 Samuel 3:1–21

This chapter describes the first time the Lord spoke directly to Samuel. Here's a summary:

##### ◆ Verses 1–3:

- Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli in the tabernacle at Shiloh.
- The text says, *"In those days the word of the Lord was rare."*

##### ◆ Verses 4–9:

- The Lord called Samuel three times during the night.
- Each time, Samuel thought it was Eli and ran to him saying, "Here I am, you called me."

##### ◆ Verse 8–9:

*"Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"*

##### ◆ Verse 10:

- God calls again, and Samuel responds just as Eli instructed:

*"Speak, for your servant is listening."*

##### ◆ Verses 11–21:

- God gives Samuel his first prophetic word: a judgment against Eli's household.
- Samuel is afraid to tell Eli, but Eli insists on hearing it, and he accepts it humbly.
- The chapter ends saying the Lord was with Samuel and that all Israel recognized him as a prophet.



##### **How Did Eli Help Samuel Recognize God's Voice?**

Eli played a critical role in helping young Samuel:

1. Provided spiritual oversight
  - Samuel served "under Eli" and learned the ways of the tabernacle.
2. Didn't dismiss Samuel's experience
  - When Samuel came to him three times, Eli didn't shame him but discerned something divine was happening.
3. Used spiritual discernment
  - *"Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy."* (v. 8)  
He had enough spiritual awareness, even in his own weakness, to recognize God's voice at work.
4. Taught Samuel how to respond
  - He coached Samuel in how to respond to God:  
*"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."*

**Key Takeaway:**

Eli's spiritual guidance helped Samuel move from hearing to recognizing and responding to God's call. His simple mentorship unlocked a lifelong prophetic ministry in Samuel.