Built To Battle July 20, 2025 Heartland Christian Center Associate Pastor, Matt Willingham

Judges 6:11-12 "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. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor."

1) EXPERIENCES and EXPECTATIONS

Judges 6:12 "The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, 'The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.""

God Sees a WARRIOR Where You See WEAKNESS

- Our EXPERIENCES will often try to shape our EXPECTATIONS.
- God speaks to who we are <u>BECOMING</u>, not just who we are.

2) <u>REALITY</u> and <u>REMEMBERING</u>

Judges 6:13-15 "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." 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."

- Crazy Faith Brings the <u>QUESTIONS</u>, But Still <u>MOVES</u>
- Faith is not the ABSENCE of fear-it's the courage to MOVE FORWARD anyway.

3) CONFIDENCE and COURAGE

Judges 7:2 "The Lord said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'"

- Sometimes God reduces our <u>RESOURCES</u> to increase our <u>RELIANCE</u>.
- Crazy Faith Trusts God's MATH, Not Human LOGIC
- God-MATH: when less becomes more in God's hands.

4) STRUGGLING and STANDING

Judges 6:14 "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?"

- Victory wasn't about STRATEGY. It was about SURRENDER.
- It's not about being <u>BRAVE</u>, it's about being <u>WILLING</u>.
- God uses <u>SURRENDERED</u> people to do <u>SUPERNATURAL</u> things.

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