



### **The Story of Gideon**

Hebrews 11:32; Judges 6-8  
NRSV

#### Hebrews 11:32

“And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets.”

The Story and Faith of Gideon: Judges 6-8

*What is the book of Judges?*

7<sup>th</sup> book in the Bible

*What is Judges about?*

The difficult and embarrassing history of Israel between the death of Joshua and the death of Samuel, the prophet.

In the day of Joshua, the people of Israel were obedient and faithful to God, so God rewarded their faithfulness with blessings.

After Joshua died, the Israelites began to drift away from their Lord; they forgot God.

The movement of the story of Judges:

From Victory to Defeat;

From Unity to Division;

From Faithfulness to Idolatry.

### Judges 21:25

“In those days there was no king in Israel; each person did what they thought to be right.”

The Book of Judges is a reminder of this truth:

*God’s people cannot rest upon the victories of the past—they must continue to be faithful in the present.*

### *Who were “judges”?*

Judges was instituted by Moses to mediate between parties who were in conflict over the law. They were responsible to God for maintaining justice and righteousness in Israel.

### *Were all the judges faithful to God?*

The book of Judges is **dark, tragic, and honest.**

### The Story of Gideon

#### Judges 6:1

“The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.”

#### Judges 6:11-12

“Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites. The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, ‘The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior.’”

*God does not call the qualified; God qualifies the called.*

#### Judges 6:13-18

##### **Gideon:**

- a. “If the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?”
- b. “Where are all his wonderful deeds our ancestors told us?”
- c. “Show me a sign.”

##### **God:**

- a. “Go. I hereby commission you.”
- b. “But I will be with you.”
- c. “I will stay.”

Judges 6:34

“But the Spirit of the LORD took possession of Gideon; and he sounded the trumpet.”

Hebrew Word: *Labash* = “To put on; to be clothed”

Judges 6:34

“But the Spirit of the LORD *clothed* Gideon.”

Hebrew Word for “Spirit” is: *Ruach* = “Wind; breath”

*The Holy Spirit enhances and heightens the mind and will of a person.*

Hebrews 7 & 8

Judges 8:22-23

“Then the Israelites said to Gideon, ‘Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson also; for you have delivered us out of the hand of Midian.’ Gideon said to them, ‘I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you.’”

Judges 8:27

“Gideon made an ephod of it and put it in his town, in Ophrah; and all Israel prostituted themselves to it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family.”

Judges 8:33

“As soon as Gideon died, the Israelites relapsed and prostituted themselves with the Baals, making Baal-berith their god.”

The book of Judges is **dark, tragic, and honest.**

*The Holy Spirit can enhance and heighten, but the Holy Spirit can also **convict.***

*Why is idolatry so bad?*

*Because you become what you worship.*

N.T. Wright in *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense*

“You become like what you worship. When you gaze in awe, admiration, and wonder at something or someone, you begin to take on something of the character of the object of your worship.”

*What do you worship?*