

Faith in Fear
Vintage Faith Message Series Week 2
Judges 6:1-7:20
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
August 13, 2023

How do you live by faith even when you are fearful?

1. Remember God is with you. (Judges 6:12; Isaiah 41:10)

“‘But I will be with you.’ Basically, God has nothing else or more to offer you. You can go through a lot with that promise. It does not answer your questions about details. It only provides the essential. Nothing about when or how or where or why. Only the what, or, better, the Who. ‘But I will be with you.’ And that is enough.”

Dale Ralph Davis, *Judges*, Christian Focus Publications,
Great Britain, 2015, p. 95.

2. Obey despite your fear. (Judges 6:27)

3. Recognize God is gracious and meets you in your fears.
(Judges 6:36-40, 7:9-15)

“The Lord knows the fears of his servants, knows how scared we can be in our various circumstances...Yet God is not so strict as to be harsh when we tremble; he does not ridicule us for our fears; he never mocks us because we are fragile.

In light of this, we may need to alter our current stereotypes of what a servant of Christ is (or, is like). We sometimes dupe ourselves into thinking that a real servant of Christ is only someone who is dynamic, assured, confident, brash, fearless, witty, adventuresome, or glamorous...Don't think you are unusable because you don't have that air about you. Christ takes uncertain and fearful folk, strengthens their hands in the oddest ways, and makes them able to stand for him in school or home or work.”

Dale Ralph Davis, *Judges*, Christian Focus Publications, Great Britain, 2015, p. 106.

4. Embrace your inadequacies and weaknesses.
(Judges 7:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29;
2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

“...because of the tendency of God's people to glorify their own efforts, to trust in their proven methods, to credit their own contributions, to think well of their cleverness, Yahweh frequently insists that his people be reduced to utter helplessness, so that they *must* recognize that their deliverance can only be chalked up to Yahweh's power and mercy.

Does not [Judges] 7:2 speak to us? Does it not tell us there is a certain deviousness in God's people, a tendency to steal God's praise? Does it not teach us that sometimes he cannot trust us with his work unless we realize how inadequate we are to do it? This may explain why God frequently chooses such unlikely instruments.”

Dale Ralph Davis, *Judges*, Christian Focus Publications, Great Britain, 2015, p. 104.