

Living in Light of God's Truth

The Power of Weakness

Judges 6-8

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / August 23, 2026

I. You Might Not See Yourself as Some Big-Time Gifted Leader

Neither did Gideon! See **Judges 6:11-16**.

There's a lot of irony in these verses! Especially the way the Angel of the LORD greets Gideon.

At the end of **v. 12**, He calls him a mighty man of valor! Gideon was probably thinking, "What? I'm down in a winepress. That's not where most Israelites thresh their wheat!" But he's taken his wheat down into the winepress because he's so scared of the Midianites!

- What about you? You might not be in a winepress, but are you hiding or laying low thinking God would never choose to use you?

A. Gideon Did Everything He Could to Deflect God's Call

In **v. 12** the Angel of the LORD said, "the LORD is with you." He uses the singular pronoun "you," letting him know He was with him in particular.

But in **v. 13** Gideon fires back with a plural pronoun saying, "Oh, yeah! If the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?"

Gideon jumps back into the crowd and wants to remain anonymous.

B. Gideon Doubted God's Faithfulness

Judges 6:13 "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...?'"

He's got questions and doubts about God!

C. Gideon Downplayed the Suitability of His Own Family Background

Judges 6:15 "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.'"

He deflects, he doubts, and he downplays, but God fires right back.

Judges 6:16 "... 'But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.'"

D. God Might Be Calling Some of You!

Remember how the Angel of the LORD addresses Gideon as a "mighty man of valor?"

He's not calling it like it is, He's calling it like it could be!

God's not looking for the man or woman our world would pick. He's looking for some "Gideons" and "Gideonettes" that our world would pass by!

II. You Just Might Be Small Enough for God to Use Greatly

It's not about if you're big enough, gifted enough, or strong enough. But are you small enough, weak enough, and humble enough to be used by God?

That's who God uses!

A. God's Just Not into "Big"

After dragging his feet, Gideon rallied an army.

Then God thins out the ranks by slashing 99% of the men. That's a 99% reduction in force!

The Midianite army was already four times bigger than Gideon's army. They had **135,000** soldiers, compared to Gideon's **32,000**, and God said, "Way too many."

Read **Judges 7:2-4**.

Gideon's army got whacked by 2/3 and then got whacked again!

Judges 7:7 "And the LORD said to Gideon, 'With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand...'"

Gideon had **just 1%** of what he started with when he first rallied the troops. He's gone from **32,000** to **300**, while the Midianite army stayed the same at **135,000**.

B. God's Not into "Special"

Judges 7:13 "... And he said, 'Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat.'"

Gideon and his army are being described as a tumbling loaf of barley bread. That's not very scary, but that tumbling loaf of barley bread rolls in and wipes them out.

Barley was the cheapest grain in Palestine. It was the poor man's food. Gideon and his army are being described as a common and cheap cake. God does not need expensive or extraordinary to do what He wants to do.

He's all about ordinary, so that He gets the glory.

C. God's Not Interested in Blessing Our Conventional Strategies and Human Wisdom

Judges 7:16 "And he divided the 300 men into three companies and put trumpets into the hands of all of them and empty jars, with torches inside the jars."

They don't even have weapons, but God routed the Midianite army, killing 120,000.

Judges 7:22 “When they blew the 300 trumpets, the LORD set every man’s sword against his companion and against all the army. And the army fled...”

III. You Better Be Ready to Face Down Your Greatest Enemy – Pride

Before the dust even settles on the battle, Gideon faces an even bigger battle in his own heart.

Judges 8:22 “Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, ‘Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson also, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian.’”

This is one of the most sobering and sad verses in the Bible, as well as being incredibly instructive, because this human tendency is still alive and well today!

This tendency is the extent to which human beings persist in giving themselves and other human beings the credit and glory for what happens.

Gideon’s report card is mixed for his response to this temptation. He started out good and said all the right things. He just didn’t stick with it.

Judges 8:23 “Gideon said to them, ‘I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you.’”

He got it right because he understood that Israel already had a ruler, Jehovah God, who just won that battle for them.

But there are 7 or 8 more troubling verses that remind us how you can start off right, but still end up wrong, because Gideon’s public proclamation didn’t match his private practice over the next 40 years.

He set up an idol that became a snare to him, his household, and all of Israel!

Judges 8:27 “And Gideon made an ephod of it and put it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family.”