

PASTOR
CHUCK DEVOS

L.I.F.E.
Live It For Eternity

Sunday,
January 8, 2023



THE GIDEON

*2 Timothy 1:7,
Judges 6 & 7*

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7, NLT)

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. (Judges 6:1-2, NIV)

The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." (Judges 6:11-12, NIV)

TWO FEARS OF GIDEON:

1. Gideon was afraid that God wasn't going to be faithful.

"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us?" (Judges 6:13a, NIV)

2. Gideon was afraid that he wasn't good enough.

But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." (Judges 6:15, NIV)

THE GIDEON:

When God uses an unsure, insecure, and fearful person to do the impossible.

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GIDEON TRUTHS

1. God's strength through your weakness is exactly enough.

The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" (Judges 6:14, NIV)

The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together." (Judges 6:16, NIV)

You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. (Judges 7:2a, NIV)

2. With God, the way forward is often backwards.

In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.' "So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained." (Judges 7:2b-3, NIV)

But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go." So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place." (Judges 7:4-7, NIV)