Stop Lying To Yourself
(When Your Hiding Place Becomes Your Stopping Place, Part 1)

Date: November 8, 2026
Text: Judges 6:1–16

November Principle: You cannot go to the next level while hiding from what you must eventually confront.

November Series Summary:

Note: **November 1**, Guest Sunday with Travis Greene (OBF50)

Part 1, November 8 - When Your Hiding Place Becomes Your Stopping Place Judges 6:1–16

Part 2, November 15 - When God Sees More Than You See Judges 6:12–24

Part 3, November 22 - When God Makes You Face What Frightens You Judges 6:25–32

Part 4, November 29 - When God Reveals What Is Hidden Judges 7:1–22

November's Next-Level Principle: You cannot go to the next level while hiding from what you must eventually confront.

Character: Gideon

Text: Judges 6:1–16

The Lie: "I can stay hidden."

The Truth: Hiding may protect you temporarily, but it can also imprison you permanently.

Next-Level Response: CONFRONT

Big Question: What are you avoiding that you know you need to confront?

Introduction: From Paul to Gideon

©2026 DRT Productions All Rights Reserved - overcomingbyfaith.org

In October, Paul had to reconsider what he believed. He was convinced he was right, but his certainty was keeping him from the truth.

In November, Gideon faces a different problem. He isn't aggressively confronting people like Paul. He's avoiding confrontation.

Note: Paul's lie was, "I know I'm right." Gideon's lie is, "I can stay hidden."

Gideon was still working. He was still producing. He was still finding ways to survive. But his survival strategy wasn't changing the conditions that kept him afraid.

I. Stop Pretending Your Survival Strategy Is Working

> "…Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites." Judges 6:11 (NIV)

A. He was still getting things done. Gideon continued preparing food despite the Midianite oppression.

B. He was hiding what he was doing. The winepress allowed him to conceal his wheat, but it did not eliminate the threat.

C. He was surviving but not solving the problem. Gideon had developed a way to live with the oppression rather than overcome it.

Question: Are you making progress, or have you simply learned how to live with the problem?

Note: Sometimes we become so skilled at managing our problems that we stop looking for solutions.

II. Stop Allowing Your Circumstances to Define Your Future

"When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, 'The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.'" Judges 6:12 (NIV)

A. God saw something Gideon wasn't demonstrating. Gideon was hiding, but God addressed him as a mighty warrior.

B. His present circumstances were real. Midian's oppression was not imaginary. Gideon had legitimate reasons to be concerned.

©2026 DRT Productions All Rights Reserved - overcomingbyfaith.org

C. His present circumstances were not his final identity. God was calling Gideon to become more than his present behavior demonstrated.

Question: Have you allowed what you're going through to determine what you believe you can become?

Note: **Your current circumstances may explain your behavior, but they do not necessarily define your future.**

III. Stop Using Your Past to Explain Why You Cannot Move Forward

"Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." Judges 6:15 (NIV)

A. He focused on his family's limitations. Gideon believed his clan's position was a **disadvantage.**

B. He focused on his personal limitations. He described himself as the least in his family.

C. He questioned his ability to fulfill the assignment. Gideon allowed his background to influence what he believed was possible.

Question: What have you convinced yourself you cannot do because of where you came from?

Note: Your background can explain where you started without determining where you must finish.

IV. Stop Waiting for the Problem to Disappear

"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)

A. God gave him an assignment. Gideon was called to confront the very enemy he had been hiding from.

B. God told him to use the strength he already had. Gideon was not told to wait until he possessed everything he thought he needed.

C. God promised to be with him. The assignment rested on God's presence, not Gideon's independent ability (Judges 6:16).

Question: What are you waiting to change before you are willing to take responsibility for what you can do?

©2026 DRT Productions All Rights Reserved - overcomingbyfaith.org
9700 Middleground Rd.
Savannah, GA 31406

Note: Sometimes your next level begins when you stop waiting for your circumstances to change and begin responding to what God has placed within your responsibility.

Closing — Four Questions:

1. Am I making progress, or just surviving?
2. Have I allowed my circumstances to define my future?
3. Am I using my background to excuse my limitations?
4. What am I waiting for that I need to confront?

Closing Thought:

Gideon had learned how to survive while hiding from Midian. But God did not call him to become a better hider. God called him to become a deliverer.

Next Sunday, November 15, 2026 — Part 2: When God Sees More Than You See (Judges 6:12–24).

©2026 DRT Productions All Rights Reserved - overcomingbyfaith.org
9700 Middleground Rd.
Savannah, GA 31406