

## THE POWER OF CONSECRATION

**TEXT:** *Judges 6:34: But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.*

God sends a divine call to a certain farmer who was busy being faithful over a few things.

There are only a few who work well under opposition that are real in their soul. It seems like the real kernel has gone from many a life, and a mere husk is left.



**The “littleness” of Christians results from the “littleness” of their Consecration to Christ.**

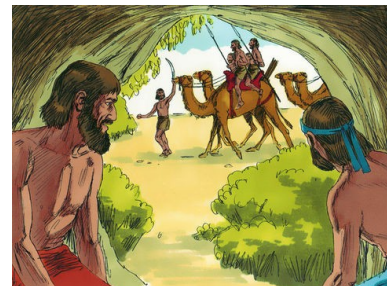
The secret of blessing and hearing from Heaven, the joys and the victories won, are not found in themselves, but in their separation unto God. Human ability will carry many souls to Hell, but not to Heaven.

Gideon, at this time, was beating out wheat in a winepress for fear of the Midianites. The God of Whom Gideon had learned from the history of his people, was a God of Might. He was One Who had been able to put His hand on man, doing thru him and within him the impossible! But now, these same people are ashamed and defeated. They are in their own land, but are slaves to another nation. They are being robbed, cheated, despoiled. They are but receiving their measure of wrongdoing to the Lord. They hardly dare show their heads above the ground.

**Judges 6:1-2:**

**1 And the Children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.**

**2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the Children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.**



God suddenly appeared unto Gideon with wonderful words of encouragement.

**Judges 6:12b: The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.**

Notice Gideon's response:



**Judges 6:13: And Gideon said unto Him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.**

Gideon could not see that the Presence of the Lord was with them. What he did know from the history of his people is that in our affliction, the Lord is afflicted.

**Isaiah 63:9: In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them, and carried them all the days of old.**

Gideon could easily see that something was wrong. He refused to shut his eyes to the absence of the Presence and Power of God. His mistake, however, was in not seeing that the fault was not with God. God is often blamed for things He has nothing to do with. It is easy to blame God for our miseries.

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**Isaiah 63:10-12:**

**<sup>10</sup> But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit: therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them.**

**<sup>11</sup> Then He remembered the days of old, Moses, and His people, saying, Where is He Who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? where is He Who put His Holy Spirit within him?**

**<sup>12</sup> That led them by the right hand of Moses with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make Himself an Everlasting Name? That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble?**

**Isaiah 63:18: The people of Thy Holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down Thy Sanctuary.**

The spirit of encouragement on me will encourage you, and that spirit on you will encourage others. We have too many knockers today, and not enough boosters.

Gideon was great within, because he was faithful over a few things. God was now getting ready to make him ruler over many things. Use what you have, and God will multiply it. Jesus talked about this in the Parable of the Talents. (See **Matthew 25:14-30**)

## HUMILITY

***Isaiah 63:15: Look down from Heaven, and behold from the habitation of Thy Holiness and of Thy glory: where is Thy zeal and Thy strength, the sounding of Thy bowels and of Thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?***

***Exodus 3:11: And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the Children of Israel out of Egypt?***

***Jeremiah 1:6: Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.***

***1 Corinthians 1:26: For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:***

God never looks on our poverty, our family tree, or our rank. Rather, God looks at our heart.



***Isaiah 63:17: O LORD, why hast Thou made us to err from Thy ways, and hardened our heart from Thy fear? Return for Thy servants' sake, the tribes of Thine inheritance.***

Gideon wants to be sure The Lord is with him. Certainly no man can be congratulated because he doubts. Even third-rate intellectuals doubt! Our doubts are assets only when they are honest, for then they will lead to us to greater faith.

***Psalms 14:1: The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.***

His trouble is not intellectual, but moral. God's Word imposes obligations that man is not willing to meet, restraints to which he has no desire to submit.

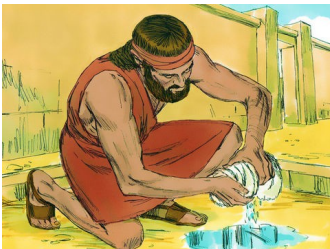
God dispels all of man's doubts by actions, signs, and wonders, not by explanations. God is willing to be put to the test.

***Malachi 3:10b: prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

Gideon's motto is: "Be sure you are right, then go ahead." Gideon wanted to be certain that God was truly calling him to save Israel from the Midianites, so he asked God for a sign.

**Judges 6:36-40:**

**36 And Gideon said unto God, If Thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as Thou hast said,**



**37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know That thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as Thou hast said.**

**38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.**

**39 And Gideon said unto God, Let not Thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray Thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.**

**40 And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.**

When God calls a man, the first test He puts him thru is image and idol smashing. No one is fit to serve the Lord unless he puts the Lord first. There is only one way to put Him first, and that is by breaking and smashing all the images he has erected in his life. Do not leave them to tempt you.

**Judges 6:34a: But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon and he blew a trumpet;**

There are many trumpets that never felt the Spirit. But when we blow in the Spirit, look at the effects and what happened when the Spirit helped him. It says:



**Judges 6:34b: And Abiezer was gathered after him.**

Who is Abiezer? Abiezer refers to a clan of Manasseh in Northern Israel who were descendants of Abiezer. Gideon's father, Joash, was an Abiezrite. A city is named after him, and it is also the place where Gideon had built an altar unto the Lord called Jehovah Shalom.

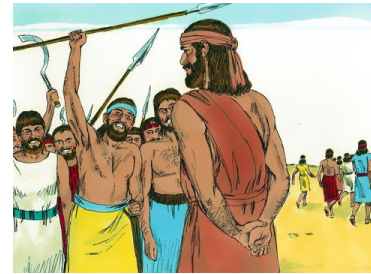
**Judges 7:1-8:**

**1 Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.**

**2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are**

**too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me, saying, Mine Own hand hath saved me.**

**<sup>3</sup> Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.**



**<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee**

**there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.**

**<sup>5</sup> So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.**



**<sup>6</sup> And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.**

**<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.**

**<sup>8</sup> So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.**

Gideon tested the Lord, and now the Lord was testing Gideon. God must only have the brave — not cowards — in His army. We are on the firing lines. Not many can stand the pressure. Only the qualified will make up the Lord's over-comers. God knows our weaknesses. Many cannot stand the strain against demons and not crack up. Many Christians lack self-discipline and are not fit for special spiritual strain. We must live in utter dependence upon Him.

God cannot use the exalted. The tests of life are very simple, and most folks miss them. God will allow no godless remarks, such as: "God won the battle, but that strong army of 10,000 or 32,000 had something to do with it." In Gideon's army, 22,000 were fearful and went back home, leaving 10,000. God further sifted the 10,000, and now only 300 remained.

God gave a simple test to the woman of Zerephath in **1 Kings**:

**1 Kings 17:8-16:**

**8 And the Word of the LORD came unto him, saying,**

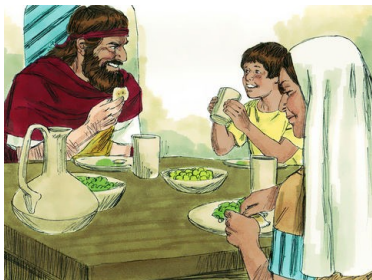
**9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.**

**10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.**

**11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.**

**12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.**

**13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.**



**14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.**

**15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.**

**16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which He spake by Elijah.**

Had the woman not obeyed the voice of the Lord, she and her son would have perished in the famine.

The Church is cumbered with useless members who are a hindrance to the work of God, especially those in places of responsibility. Preaching Bible Holiness, and preaching against worldliness may reduce this church in numbers, but it will increase our spiritual power.

We are all subjected to unrecognized tests. Will you withstand the test? God is the Tester, and don't forget it. Often He uses commonplace things — seemingly

unimportant details of life — to test us. Often He uses our daily walk, conversation, and attitude toward your companion, your children, and others to see how you treat those who oppose you or don't see eye-to-eye with you.

In the first test, God separated the fearful. God cannot work with fearful, cowardly people.

**A little leaven  
leavens the  
whole loaf.**

Many would have said, “*Why make such a big difference over such a little thing as the way a man drinks?*” People today ask, “*What makes the difference if I pray half hour or only ten minutes?*” People, we learn that little things make a big difference in our spirituality. A little leaven leavens the whole loaf.

***1 Corinthians 5:6: Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?***

God always blesses and loves the faithful. He will give them encouragement and pledges of victory before the battles are even fought — such as in a dream of encouragement with the witness of the Spirit that you know is from God.

God instructed Gideon to go down to the enemies' camp, and there he heard words that convinced him the Lord was already working.

***Judges 7:9-14:***

***9 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.***

***10 But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:***

***11 And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host.***

***12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.***

***13 And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.***



**14 And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.**



The Word of God tells us that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal – guns, cannons, bombs, swords, or battleships.

**2 Corinthians 10:4: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**

In themselves, weapons are nothing. It is obedience to God that gives effectiveness to the simple, base weapons which God uses:

- **Shamgar had an ox goad**

**Judges 3:31: And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.**

- **David had five stones**

**1 Samuel 17:40, 45, 49:**

**40 And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.**

**45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.**

**49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.**

- **Moses had a rod**

**Exodus 4:1-5:**

**1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.**

**2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he**



said, A rod.

**3 And He said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.**



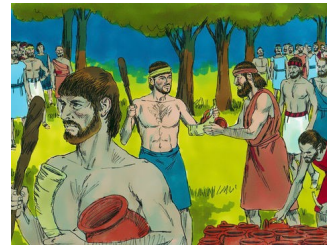
**4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:**

**5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.**

What strange weapons God uses. In the case of Gideon, it was trumpets and empty pitchers with torches inside.

**Judges 7:16-22:**

**16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.**



**17 And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.**



**18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The Sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.**

**19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.**

**20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The Sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.**



**21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.**

**22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host**

***fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.***

The pitcher is symbolic of our testimony, and the Torch is symbolic of the Holy Spirit which gives us light.

***2 Corinthians 4:7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the Power may be of God, and not of us.***

Crowds may be inspiring to a man, but they are often deceiving. God thinned the crowd of soldiers to get 300 men.

God uses broken things — broken pitchers. We must die daily to our flesh. Only a few get through to Christ. Many thronged Jesus, but only one woman pressed in to touch Him and was healed.

***Mark 5:28-29:***

***28 For she said, If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole.***

***29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.***

Half-hearted followers weaken rather than strengthen the army. If you are attending church only on Sunday morning or on special occasions, you are half-hearted and will flee when the enemy attacks. Those who do not support the Church and the work of God are half-hearted. Those of you who are not in sympathy with Bible holiness and crucifixion to flesh are half-hearted. You who do not believe in, nor have experienced the Baptism of the Spirit, nor are living in the Spirit after you were filled, are going through God's sieve this morning.

You are weakening the army of the Lord in this godless generation.

We need more like Gideon who told the army of 300:

***Judges 7:17: Look on me, and do likewise.***

We need Christian examples, more than tongue rattlers. We need Christian leaders whose life matches their testimony.

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