

FIGHTING WITH WEAKNESS & WORSHIP

JUDGES 6-7 – ERIC SIMPSON – JANUARY 13, 2019

Judges 6:12-13

¹² When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." ¹³ "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

➤ Seeming "absence" is in fact Presence



Gideon looks at his circumstances and concludes God has abandoned him/them, but the angel reminds him that God is WITH him.

Judges 6:14-16

¹⁴ 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?" ¹⁵ "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." ¹⁶ The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

➤ Where we see weakness, God sees strength.

God's description = "mighty warrior", Gideon's = overwhelmed, discouraged & confused

God prefers to work with the least-likely & most-ordinary.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Judges 7:2

The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her"

➤ God will align the story to maximize the miracle and magnify His glory.

Gideon principle = reduction, stripping down, decrease...just before the battle

God picked "least & weakest", then reduced army to 300, then clarified His plan...

Judges 7:15-17

¹⁵...He [Gideon] returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands." ¹⁶ Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. ¹⁷ "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do." ¹⁸ When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'"

Our part = worship, pray, trust, obey—right in the face of our battles

God's part = make a way when there seems to be no way

Gideon did what the Lord instructed him to do then God did what Gideon could never do.