

MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR

I. Gideon- The Hidden Warrior- [Judges 6:11]

- A. Gideon is hiding from the Midianites threshing wheat
 - 1. The Midianites had taken control of Israel
 - 2. Every time Gideon had a harvest, the Midianites would come and take it! He is bullied by the enemy and he could not seem to get ahead!
 - 3. Gideon represents many Christians who allow themselves to be bullied by the enemy.

II. The Angel of the Lord- First attempt to reveal the covenant and covenant identity- [Judges 6:12]

- A. The Angel of the Lord appears to Gideon
 - 1. The Angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate manifestation of Christ- [also see-**Gen. 16:7, Gen. 22:11, Ex. 3:2, Num. 22:22, Judg. 2:1, Judg. 13:3, 2 Kings 19:35**]
 - 2. The Angel came to reveal two things to Gideon
 - a. The covenant- ***I am with you...***
 - b. His true identity based upon covenant- ***mighty man of valor..***

III. Gideon's first response- It is God's fault things are they way they are!

- A. ***If you are with us***, then why are bad things happening and why are we living in defeat?
 - 1. Gideon blames God for the bad things that were happening and felt it was God's fault they were living defeated lives.
 - 2. Gideon placed the responsibility for him living in freedom and victory on God. God however was placing it on Gideon because God had provided a covenant of freedom and victory already.
 - 3. Multitudes of Christians are right where Gideon is. They are being daily harassed by the enemy and one bad thing after another is

happening and they wonder why God is not stopping it. God has given us covenant rights to stand victorious over every attack of the enemy.

B. Where are the miracles?

1. Gideon wondered that if God was with them, then why was He not performing miracles?
2. When Jesus showed up in his own home town they asked the same thing- since you are here show us some miracles! [**Luke 4:23**]
3. Many Christians are sitting around waiting on God to perform miracles for them to get them out of trouble and to defeat the enemy for them.
4. God has provided all we need. However, we must respond in faith. As we speak and act in faith, the miracle power of God goes to work in us and for us! Miracles await us, we are not waiting for miracles!

C. Gideon's response reveals ignorance of two things

1. **His covenant rights with God**- The Abrahamic covenant- The Mosaic Covenant did not set aside this covenant for anyone acting upon it. In this covenant, God is with the seed of Abraham and promised to be with him and to be against those who cursed him. [**Gen. 12:3**]
2. **His identity because of the covenant**- "a mighty man of valor"
3. David defeated Goliath because he knew his covenant rights and his identity based on the covenant.

D. Due to Gideon's ignorance of covenant rights and his covenant identity, Gideon theology was:

1. It was up to God alone to keep bad things from happening.
2. It was up to God alone to perform miracles for him and defeat the enemy for him while he just sat and watched.
3. Many Christians have the same theology, but live defeated...

IV. The Truth is

1. God gave Gideon the covenant right [authority] and power [valor, go in this thy might vs. 14] to rise up and stand against the enemy in faith and see God perform miracles in response to his faith and acting upon the covenant.
2. God gave Israel the covenant right to fight and win every battle, but they would have to fight in faith. We are called to the same fight of faith. [**1 Tim. 6:12**] They would have to take authority over the enemy.
4. When Israel relied on their covenant with God, their covenant rights, followed God's leading, and acted upon it, they won each and every battle **THEY** fought. Sometimes God said to stand still on the battle field and God routed the enemy, but they still had to go out to the ***battle field***.
5. Christians today are being defeated by the enemy because they think it is God's responsibility to defend them from the devil and to defeat him. God has already defeated the enemy and has given us the covenant rights to resist the enemy and when we do, he will flee in terror before US. [**James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9**] God has given us authority in the earth, so we are the ones that must exercise that authority each day and resist the enemy and enforce the victory of Jesus over him. When we walk in our covenant rights by faith the miracle working power is released to trample under our feet snakes and scorpions and all the work of the enemy! [**Luke 10:19**]

V. The Angel of the Lord's second attempt to reveal covenant and covenant identity- Judges 6:14

A. "Go in this thy might"

1. Gideon was given power because of his position in the covenant. It was latent power that awaited the act of faith!

2. We are filled with the latent power of God. We can't see it or feel it. It is activated by our words and actions of faith upon our covenant rights. [Eph. 3:20]

B. Have I not sent you?

1. **NOT I am sending** you..
2. **Have I not already sent you-** This is covenant. God had given Gideon and all of Abraham's seed- believers- the land of Palestine. [Gen. 12:7] He had already given the commission to Abraham and his seed that this was their land. Gideon was to stand up with his covenant rights and demand his land back in the name of the Lord and rout out those uncircumcised Midianites who had no covenant with God. He was called to do what David did with the Philistines.
3. The enemy has stolen land from many Christians. They are waiting on God to do something about it. They are hiding in their winepresses waiting for miracles to take place and have their land returned to them. It is not going to happen! Unless you stand up in covenant and start speaking and acting in faith...then...the miracles will start to manifest and the enemy will flee!

VI. Gideon's second response- Who am I? [Judges 6:15]

A. My family and I are poor

B. My family is insignificant and I am the least in my family

- C. Gideon started to recount his family's culture of lies- We are poor. We are amount to nothings.
- D. Gideon had been told limiting lies by his parents and family. He saw himself according to his natural identity and in the framework of his family culture.
- E. Gideon's dad was an idol worshipper. Idols are lies, therefore, He worshipped lies. [Hab. 2:18- "**a teacher of lies**"] Therefore he believed lies and taught them to his family!

- F. Many Christians grew up with unsaved parents who believed and lived lies. They taught those lies to their children. Many Christians still believe the lies their families taught them- I am poor, I won't amount to anything, I can't get ahead, I am a loser, I am a sinner, I am rotten, I am just like my old man, etc...
 - G. Christians must break these family lies with the truth of the Word of God. Lies seem like truth, but we must not go with feelings but with faith in God's Word. If we will keep confessing God's Word about our new identity in Christ then we will start feeling the truth. Feelings must come after faith...
- VII. **The Angel of the Lord's Third attempt to reveal covenant and covenant identity-[Judges 6:16]**
- A. ***Surely I shall be with you***- covenant
 - B. ***You shall smite them as one man***- man of power- identity
- VIII. **Phase 1- The first step of freedom- [Judges 6:25-26]**
- A. Gideon is instructed by God to destroy the idolatrous altar and grove ***of his father***. Idols are lies.
 - B. Gideon would have to break the lies of his father and his family. He would have to break away from his old identity taught him by his family and take on the identity revealed to him by God.
 - C. If he did not break these lies he could not have defeated the enemy.
 - D. In the place of lies, Gideon built ***an altar of truth***. He sacrificed burnt offerings to the Lord and placed his faith in the covenant blood.
 - E. Christians that renounce the lies of self-righteousness and idolatry and accept the finished work of Christ are ready for a victorious Christian life!
- IX. **Phase II- Who is ready for the battle? [Judges 7:2-7]**
- A. Gideon gathered 32,000 men to fight Midian.

- B. God tells him he has ***too many for ME to deliver Midian into their hands***- they may boast in military skill and the bravery of the army.
- C. ***God tells him to send home those who were fearful.***
 - 1. 22,000 men go home!
 - 2. God is getting rid of those who had the ***Gideon complex***. Gideon was fearful because he did not have a God centered identity. He was self-focused and self-dependent which breeds fear. Adam and Eve after they lost the righteousness of God became fearful because they were self-righteous. [**Gen. 3:10**]
 - 3. God was getting rid of those who were self-focused, therefore, religious and fearful. The most fearful group of people on the planet is religious folk!
- D. God says there is still too many. He tells Gideon to take the army remaining to the watering hole and watch them drink. ***Those who lustily drank with their head in the water he was to send home. He was to keep those who lapped the water from their palm, with their heads up.***
 - 1. 9,700 of them got sent home! Gideon was left with only three hundred men!
 - 2. The ones sent home represented those living in the lusts of their flesh. They were not religious- fearful- but they were carnal- flesh controlled. These could not stand victorious in battle against the enemy

X. Lessons from the two tests

- A. Twice as much of the men were disqualified from fear- self-righteousness – lack of faith- than were from carnality and giving in to their lusts.
 - 1. This reveals that religion and self-righteousness is a much bigger problem in the body of Christ than carnality. Paul addressed much more legalism- Romans, Galatians, Hebrews than carnality- Corinthians

- B. The **first** group that God points out to be disqualified is the religious – fearful- group. God tolerates and is more patient with the carnal than those who are religious. The carnal can grow up, but religious people will become stuck in their condition! Jesus primary address was against the religious people and then to the publicans and sinners.
- C. **God has always worked through a remnant.** It only takes a few covenant believers acting on their faith to do great and mighty things in God!
- D. Pastors are worried about those leaving the church- most of these are religious and carnal. Don't focus on them! Focus on the remnant of believers that are on fire for God and enjoy the grace of God. Much more can be accomplished through a small remnant, than through a huge congregation of fearful and carnal people!

XI. Phase III- The Battle Plan- [Judges 7:16-18]

- A. God gives Gideon the battle plan for **the remnant**.
- B. They are to carry **a trumpet in one hand**, and **an earthen vessel with a lighted torch inside it in the other hand**. They were to **blow their trumpets**, and **then yell- the sword of the Lord and of Gideon**, and then **break their earthen vessels and let their light shine!**
- C. This would cause the enemy to turn on each other in panic and they would flee.
- D. They did this and it says afterwards that **each man stood each in their place**.
- E. This battle plan worked for the remnant and it will work for God's remnant of believers today.
- F. Symbolism
 1. **Trumpet**- stands for **proclamation**- Believers are to proclaim the gospel of grace and their New Covenant rights to themselves and to the enemy.
 2. **Sword of the Lord** and **of Gideon**- The sword of the Lord is God's Word. [Eph. 6:17] We must proclaim the Word of God, and when

we do the Spirit will wield it! God's Sword though must become our sword. It must come out of our mouth, not just God's mouth!

3. ***Earthen vessel with the light in it***- This speaks of believers that have the light of the glory of God in them, but it is covered by the flesh-[**2 Cor. 4:6-7**]
 - a. ***The Earthen vessel***- flesh – must be broken- This is done relying upon our identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is done by relying upon the gift of righteousness and the Spirit life of in Christ Jesus within us to put to death the deeds of the body by our faith in the finished work of Jesus- [**Romans 8:13, Romans 6:11**]
 - b. When we do this we become spiritual- controlled by the Spirit and the light in us will shine forth God's glory for all to see, especially the enemy! He will flee in terror
4. ***We are to stand in our place***- It says the all **STOOD** in their own place. We are not to run away, or run charging forward to conquer, but to ***stand upon the victory ground given to us by Christ***. [**Eph. 6:10-13**]

XII. Conclusion

- A. ***We must renew our minds to the New Covenant of grace*** we have been given through Jesus Christ- The epistles are the description of the New Covenant and our rights in the covenant.
- B. ***We must renew our minds to our new covenant identity***- righteous, saint, holy, healed, prosperous, victorious!
- C. ***We renew our minds by brainwashing!*** The best way to get brainwashed is by hearing something over and over again! The only person that will be able to properly brainwash you with the New Covenant is **YOU** with the help of the Holy Spirit's revelation!
- D. You must get into the Word of God [especially the New Covenant] yourself each day, and start and don't quit speaking over yourself

what God says about you. Don't go by feeling, but go by faith in God's Word. Feeling comes after faith.

- E. The more you stand in your righteous position in Christ and rely on the finished work of Christ, the more you will take dominion in the earth!
- F. Turn from the lies of your family, from religion, from carnality, and embrace the truths of your covenant rights and your new covenant identity and rise up and be a man or woman of valor in this day and hour!