

Deeper Life Notes

Confidence without Compromise,
Supernatural Power – Judges 6:33-40
Pastor Dan Osborn, May 1, 2016



Watertown
Evangelical
Free Church

Read

Judges 6:33-40

Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.

Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew. Judges 6:33-40 ESV

Four Traps to Avoid

Study & Discuss

1. Don't diminish the battle The Evil one is fighting, ruling, deceiving, accusing
John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:6-9

"When Christianity exercised a dominant influence over American thinking, men conceived the world to be a battleground. Our fathers believed in sin and the devil and hell as constituting one force, and they believed in God and righteousness and heaven as the other. By their very nature, these forces were opposed to each other forever in deep, grave, irreconcilable hostility. Man, our fathers held, had to choose sides – he could not be neutral. For him it must be life or death, heaven or hell, and if he choose to come out on God's side, he could expect open war with God's enemies. The fight would be real and deadly and would last as long as life continued here below. Men looked forward to heaven as a return from the wars, a laying down of the sword to enjoy in peace the home prepared for them..."Men think of the world not as a battleground, but as a playground. We are not here to fight; we are here to frolic. We are not in a foreign land; we are at home. We are not getting ready to live, but we are already living, and the best we can do is rid ourselves of our inhibitions and our frustrations and live this life to the full." A.W. Tozer, This World: Playground or Battleground?, Chapter 1

2. Don't deny God's empowerment "But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon"
Ephesians 1:13, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

*"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, the arrows of truth which pierce the consciences of men, the weapon of all prayer, the influence of the Holy Ghost-that divine power-such weapons as these are by God's power made mighty to the overthrow of spiritual principalities and powers. Truth and holiness are the appointed engines for the pulling down of the castles of evil. Charles Haddon Spurgeon stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then **take** the second bull and **offer** it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down."*

3. Don't delay, pray. Seek first the counsel of the Lord, ask, knock, seek
4. Don't disavow the grace of God "And it was so...and God did so that night"

Pray

Ask God to make these four steps second nature.

Four Traps to Avoid

Study & Discuss

1. Engage your enemy-The world, the devil, the flesh
 - Know who your enemy is: (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
 - Know how your enemy will attack/tempt: Put on... Stand against... Ephesians 6:11-18

Scriptures to Study

Colossians 1:12-14, Acts 26:18, 2 Timothy 2:3-4, Hebrews 2:14-15, 1 Timothy 1:18, 6:12, 1 Timothy 4:7, Romans 13:11-14, 1 John 5:19, Luke 4:5-7, Ephesians 2:2-31, Peter 2:11, James 1:13-15, Galatians 5:17

2. Embrace your resources-The empowering presence of the Holy Spirit
 - The promise of the Spirit: Acts 1:4-5; Joel 2:28
 - The Spirit received: Ephesians 1:13-14
 - The power of the Spirit: Acts 1:8; Romans 7:15-25; Galatians 5:17-18
 - The fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-25
3. Prioritize prayer - James 1:5-7
4. Expect grace

"The grace of God May be defined as "the free undeserved gift from God to you of value despite past sin, power to not sin today, and hope to not sin tomorrow. Which cost God an infinite price so, if accepted, reasonably asks of me my all." Dr. Vernon Bell

Meditate Upon these Truths

Ephesians 2:7-10 (MSG) Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Romans 3:21-24 (MSG) But in our time something new has been added. What Moses and the prophets witnessed to all those years has happened. The God-setting-things-right that we read about has become Jesus-setting-things-right for us. And not only for us, but for everyone who believes in him. For there is no difference between us and them in this. Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.