

FEARLESS!

Gideon

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. **2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)***

...Then there was peace in the land for forty years.

Judges 5:31 (NLT)

*The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites with nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys. These enemy hordes, coming with their livestock and tents, were as thick as locusts; they arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count. And they stayed until the land was stripped bare. So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help. **Judges 6:1-6 (NLT)***

*Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. **Judges 6:11 (NLT)***

*The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!" **Judges 6:12 (NLT)***

TRUTH: God sees something in me that I do not.

GIDEON'S INSECURITIES

Insecurity #1: Gideon was afraid that God was not able or faithful.

“But sir,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us?” **Judges 6:13 (NIV)**

Insecurity #2: Gideon was afraid that he was not enough.

“But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!” **Judges 6:15 (NLT)**

GIDEONS DISCOVERIES

Discovery #1: God can use unsure, insecure, but faithful people to do the impossible.

“Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.”

1 Corinthians 1:26-28 (NLT)

“It is all right,” the Lord replied. “Do not be afraid. You will not die.” **Judges 6:23 (NLT)**

Discovery #2: God’s strength through my weakness is exactly enough.

Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!” **Judges 6:14 (NLT)**

Discovery #3: God has a winning strategy for every goal He gives me.

The Lord said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.” **Judges 6:16 (NLT)**

Discovery #4: With God, the way forward often seems backwards.

*The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength. Therefore, tell the people, ‘Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.’” So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight. **Judges 7:2-3 (NLT)***

Application: Go back to God’s Principles & Promises and pursue God’s Purposes

So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help.

Judges 6:6 (NLT)

*For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **Romans 10:13 (NLT)***