



January 25, 2015

Step Up...Strength in Weakness

Judges 6-8

Introduction

Sometimes we are not certain of God's plan for our lives and not always sure how to find it. In the Bible's descriptions of how God guided many people, we can see that often God's call came while people were completely immersed in the challenge of the moment. Gideon is an example of this kind of guidance. Gideon had his weak moments and failures, but he was still God's servant. We are challenged to give our full attention to God as Gideon did, believing He will prepare us for each day when it comes.

Discussion Questions

1. Gideon was a man who obeyed God by giving his attention to the task at hand. What are some major distractions people encounter that keep them from obeying God and giving attention to the task at hand? What decisions are needed to get back on track in obeying God?
2. Why do you think faith is important to God (Hebrews 11)? What needs to happen to awaken our faith and give courage to trust that God can and will use the weaknesses that we tend to focus on?
3. Gideon had to tear down the Asherah poles, destroying idols of the false god Baal. Our culture is embedded with idols such as possessions, personalities, pleasures, etc. How can a person find out if there are idols hidden in their heart? Is God calling you to step up against an area of sin or immorality in the culture around you?
4. Gideon's army of 300 defeated 125,000 men with God's help. What is keeping you from living like one of God's 300? How does the knowledge that God is already there ahead of you in the situation help you to decide to take a step of faith?
5. The angel called Gideon "a mighty warrior", looking beyond who he was to what he would become with God's help. Do you have a personal story or know of someone personally where God provided a *new place of standing* that is beyond one's ability?
6. Satan wants us to give up the good fight of faith. **In order to *step up* we must first *kneel down*.** Where is God asking you to be courageous, not give up, and stand strong in faith? What are some of the risks? What promises from scripture are you depending upon?

Conclusion

"He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will give up. But those who wait on the Lord will find a new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:29-31