

# Gideon: When fear meets faith

Judges 6-7

## How do we live by faith in the midst of fear?

The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. Judges 6:1-3

Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. Judges 6:11

## What are you fearful of today? What are you hiding from?

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## Our identities come from \_\_\_\_\_

And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.” Judges 6:12

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” Judges 6:13

## God calls us in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_

And the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” Judges 6:14

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Cor 1:35

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 2 Cor 4:7-8

## When God calls us, he \_\_\_\_\_

And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”

Judges 6:16

All of God’s great men have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them; they counted on His faithfulness. ~Hudson Taylor

## Faith isn’t marked by fearlessness, its marked by \_\_\_\_\_

So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night. Judges 6:27

## Faith lived out encourages the \_\_\_\_\_

Then the men of the town said to Joash, “Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has broken down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah beside it.” But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down.” Judges 6:30-31

The Lord said to Gideon, “The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.’” Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained. Judges 7:2-3

## Sometimes faith \_\_\_\_\_

That same night the Lord said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand. But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant.” Judges 7:9-10

## Next Steps:

- If you are feeling fearful, this week remind yourself of your identity in Christ.
- If you need encouragement to live by faith, look for a “Purah”. You be a “Purah” to someone this week.
- Live our your faith this week!

## Additional Resources:

- To find biblical resources of who God is, and who we are look up <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/misc/ogiwa.cfm>