



God's Faithfulness Amid Our Fears and Failures

Judges 6
September 18, 2022

16 And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you ..."

Judges 6:16a (ESV)

Isaiah 48:9-11

The Big Idea: Our merciful and gracious God **saves** people and is **faithful** in His work for His own glory in spite of our life-long struggles with our fears and failures.

6 ¹ 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.

¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, ***"The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."*** ¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, ***why*** then has all this happened to us? And ***where*** are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." ¹⁴ 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?" ¹⁵ And he said to him, "Please, Lord, ***how can I save Israel?***? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." ¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, ***"But I will be with you,*** and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."

²¹ Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. ***And fire sprang up from the rock*** and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. ²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." ²³ But the LORD said to him, ***"Peace be to you.*** Do not fear; you shall not die."

²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, ***The LORD Is***

Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

²⁵ That night the LORD said to him, "Take your father's bull, and the second bull seven years old, and ***pull down the altar of Baal*** that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it ²⁶ and ***build an altar to the LORD your God*** on the top of the 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."

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE STORY OF GIDEON:

1. Sin is definitely not **always** the reason for our troubles, but we should always be willing to consider it as a possibility. (v. 1)
2. When sin is my problem, **repentance** and **obedience** are the only appropriate responses. (Mark 1:15; John 14:15)
3. Refuse to let your relationship with God degenerate into a **mechanical** one, full of expected "transactions" because you cried out to the Lord in your crisis. (v. 7)
4. Believe about yourself what **God** believes about you. (v. 12)
5. Personal and spiritual peace (shalom) is not found in experiences or places but in a **person** – the Lord (v. 24).
6. Choose genuine **faith** by taking the existence of God, the certainty of His promises, and the Truth of His perfect Word as the foundation and core of your life. Gideon's "Perform me a sign" and I will believe you are not a model for us to emulate!
7. Anything that competes with Jesus for my ultimate **devotion** needs to "torn down" and abandoned and replaced with a Romans 12:1-2 life.

"One step forward in obedience is worth years of study about it."

Oswald Chambers
