



God Shows His Strength in Our Weakness

Judges 7
September 25, 2022

The Big Idea: Gideon's story is the best illustration of a key biblical principle: God demonstrates His **strength** in our **weakness**. The salvation God gave to Gideon and his army foreshadows the salvation God secured for us in Christ – there is no way any of us can say, "I did this."

7 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

² 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.'"³ 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.

⁴ And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go."⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink."⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water.⁷ And the Lord said to Gideon, "**With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand**, and let all the others go every man to his home."⁸ So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

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

¹⁵ As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the Lord has given the host of Midian into your hand."

¹⁹ So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands.²⁰ Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, "**A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!**"²¹ Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled.²² When they blew the 300 trumpets, the Lord set every man's sword against his comrade and against all the army.

WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD AND OURSELVES:

1. God knows that we, as humans, have a pesky tendency to be impressed with our own abilities and rob Him of **GLORY** (Deuteronomy 8:17-20; 9:4-6) God is the One who saves and He is the One who gets the glory.
2. God often uses the weak and **FOOLISH** to serve His purposes (1 Corinthians 1:26-29; 2 Corinthians 12:8-10; 13:4)
3. God is the great **REASSURER** of His people (1 John 2:3; Romans 8:31-39)
4. There are times God's instructions to us, from a human perspective, seem absurd. The "impossibility" of our circumstances is meant to strengthen our **FAITH** and leave all with no explanation except for the **POWER** of God.
5. Just as God saves through the weaknesses of the Israelites, so we see Him do the same in the **CROSS**, and so we will see Him do the same for the **CHURCH**, both now (Matthew 16:18) and in the end (Revelation 20:7-10)