

Gideon

From Insecurity to Strength

When the nation of Israel began worshipping other gods, God allowed them to be oppressed by other nations. A young Israeli farmer named Gideon was hiding from the enemy when he was called by God to be a mighty warrior! Gideon had to overcome insecurity in order to see himself as God saw him.

Insecurity Gets in the Way of God's Calling

Judges 6:5-13, 14-24

Judges 6:5-13 (NIV)

- (5) They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it.
- (6) Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.
- (7) When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian,
- (8) he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
- (9) I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land.
- (10) I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."
- (11) The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.
- (12) When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."
- (13) "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 6:14-24 (NIV)

- (14) The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"
- (15) "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."
- (16) The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."
- (17) Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me.
- (18) Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you." And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return."
- (19) Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.
- (20) The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so.
- (21) Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared.
- (22) When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!"
- (23) But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."
- (24) So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Judges 6:13 (NIV)

- (13) "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."

Why was Gideon hiding?

Judges 6:15 (NIV)

- (15) "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

How did Gideon see himself?

Judges 6:17 (NIV)

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(17) Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me."

How did Gideon respond?

Why did Gideon ask for a sign?

Security Is Found in God

How did God build security in Gideon?

Judges 6:12 (NIV)

| (12) When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

What did God call Gideon?

Judges 6:14 (NIV)

| (14) The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

How did God see Gideon?

Judges 6:16 (NIV)

| (16) The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

How does God reassure him?

Judges 6:18 (NIV)

| (18) Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.” And the Lord said, “I will wait until you return.”

What does this verse say about God?

Judges 6:22-24 (NIV)

| (22) When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, “Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!”
| (23) But the Lord said to him, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.”
| (24) So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

How does God respond to Gideon’s fear? And how does Gideon respond to God?

In the Face of Battle

Judges 6:33-34 (NIV)

| (33) Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.
| (34) Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.

How did God prepare Gideon for the battle ahead?

Ask

What can we learn from Gideon’s story about insecurity?

Application

How can God help you overcome issues of insecurity?

What do you feel are your strengths?

Prayer

Lord, I don’t always see myself as a hero, but whatever strength you have given me, I want to use to bring your plan into action in my life. Help me to grow in confidence and security.

Key Verse

Judges 6:12 NLT

| The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero the Lord is with you!”