



## **Gideon**

Judges 6:12 *“When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”*

It has occurred to me that Paul mentions people in Hebrews 11 that have less faith than others. Some struggled with sin. God is using those who struggle in faith. Paul wants to show us that faith within is the key. When the chips fall: those with inner faith will rise up. Gideon questioned himself and God. So did Moses and John the Baptist. Yet, their action (at times) dripped faith. David was a man after Gods own heart. Yet, he took flight from his enemies several times. Somehow deep inside, these people reached deep within to grab faith when it appeared that they had none.

Gideon could be a soap opera called: the bold and the unsure. He saw an angel of the Lord and approached him. Gideon was willing to engage an angel. Yet, he questions why God has abandoned the nation. It is bold and unsure all at the same time. What is not said is key. Gideon is not questioning the existence of God. No, instead, he is asking boldly what is going on. Gideon even questions if he is talking to an angel. Later on, he questions if God is there. It is not out of a lack of faith in my mind. Weak faith is not the lack of it. You just need to build upon it.

Some times the angels are annoyed with the lack of faith like Zechariah (John the Baptist father). At other times the angel ignores the lack of faith like with Mary the mother of Jesus. God builds faith by the sifting method. It is interesting that Gideon is at the threshing floor. I think that is by no mistake. God is going to thresh Gideons faith to build it up. Strip away the unsureness and replace it with boldness. You can see this when Gideon asks the angel to wait for him. Gideon goes in unsure but comes back bold. The angel then sends Gideon on a bold task. By faith Gideon went even though he was unsure, he went. He broke down the alters of Baal at night because he was afraid, yet he did it. God desires that we need him to beat the unbeatable.

The sifting of Gideon goes back and forth. God wants this man to play a bigger role yet Gideon is not ready. He stood up to the angel of the Lord, then he questioned his role. Gideon challenged God if he exists with the dew and the fleece. God challenged him right after by sifting his men down to 300. It is all there in black and white. God takes men of the Bible and sifts them for bigger roles. Look at Peter, Paul, and Moses. Gideon is called but Gideon must be sifted first. David was anointed king but had to wait 22 years to earn it. I should do a whole study on the threshing floor.

This is one of my favorite sayings about God: how to build faith 101. Take away your assets. Challenge your pride by allowing you to stumble. Give you just enough that God can use. Then make your eyes focus on the task and not on your fears. I do believe that Gideon had confidence. Nobody should approach an angel or the Lord if they are scared. Yet, Gideon was unsure if God would use him. Maybe the men of the town never thought of Gideon as the bold one. Yet, God did. Once Gideon was given the green light by God, he acted. In-fact he acted boldly taking the idols down. The army of the Midianites down.

It is interesting that Moses did not enter the promise land. David was not allowed to build God a temple. John the Baptist lost his head. Even Paul perished in a roman prison. Gideon made a mess as others had. He ended his life in disgrace over an idol he made. God is not interested in us gaining notoriety. God wins and we serve. God fights and we barley make it through. It is more about threshing our ego more than stoking Gods. The Lord knows he can. Yet, He does not want us think we are God. The Lord wants us to deal with our lack of faith. To look weak and humble? I think its more than that. It is not our land to take. Instead, I feel it's a promised land that God is giving.

*Zechariah 4:6 "So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.*

By faith, Gideon rose up and did mighty works for the Lord. Yet, the verse above is ringing in my ears. We gain faith through sifting. It is not something that we work on. Can you grow your own faith? I say no. God must be in it. Romans 12:3 *"For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but so, to think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith."* Gideon had faith in the Lord. Yet, God took that faith and sifted out the weak and unsure parts. He made a bold man out of an unsure man. Paul mentions Gideon in Hebrews 11 because (Paul too) had to be sifted. It is how God wins!