FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019
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• READ: Judges 7: 8-16
FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

God Strengthens Gideon’s Faith
• God Sent An Angel Of The Lord
• His Offering Was Consumed On The Altar
• Twice – God Answered And Confirmed Gideon’s Fleeces

God Tests Gideon’s Faith
• Faith Will Be Tested So That It Is Ready To Stand The Test And Win The Battle
FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

• God Uses The Reduction Of Troops To Test And Prove Gideon’s Faith

• Our Faith In God Is Proven To God Through Obedience

• It Is By His Power Alone That We Can Be Victorious
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• God’s Plan Is Revealed: Get Rid Of All Troops That Are Afraid
God’s First Step: Reduction

• Reduce Troops From 32,000 To 300

• God Can Do More With 1% Than We Can Do With 100%
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• (Judg 7:2 NIV) The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her

• God’s Reduction Plan = He Alone Receives Glory
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• (John 3:30 NIV) He must become greater; I must become less.

• God Will Share His Glory With No Man, Country, Or Church
GILEAD = “Rocky Region”

• The Only Way Through “Rocky Regions”
  Is With Faith Not With Fear

• 2 Tim 1:7 (NKJV) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• (Psalms 56:4 NKJV) In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

• In His Army God Doesn’t Need Tremblers -- They Were Sent Home

• They Had The Spirit Of Fear -- Not The Spirit Of Faith
(Judg 7:4 NIV) But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

- **SIFT** = refining metals by separating the dross from the pure ore

- **God Knows How To Separate That Which Is Valuable From That Which Has No Value**
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• God’s Plan Always Leads To God’s Victory
God’s Plan = Reduce Them Drastically

(5) So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." (6) Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. (7) The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place." (8) So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• **Soldiers God Doesn’t Need:**
  
  – The Tremblers *(The Fearful)*
  
  – The Self-Centered
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• God Is Looking For Those So Eager To Do His Work That They Don’t Stop To Get A Drink

• What Remains = A 300 Man Fighting Machine
• (8) So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

• The Band Of 300 Got To Blow The Trumpet Of Victory

• God Has Reserved Something Special For Those Who Stick It Out In Faith Until The Victory’s Been Won!
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• God Knows How To Take Care Of, Sustain, and Reward, Those Who Are In The Midst Of A Battle
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• God Uses Our Reduction -- To Prove Himself To Us

• Our Faith In God Is Proven To God Through Obedience
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• At Times God Will Call Us To A Task Or Standard That Is Way Above Us — At The Same Time He Is Reducing Our Resources And Our Reserve To Almost Nothing

• He Does This To Prove To Us And To Those Watching Us That It’s By His Power Alone That We Are Victorious
**GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR**

- When We Are At Our Least God Can Be At His Greatest

- We Think We Are Going To Prove God Actually He Is Proving Us
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

Similar Instances Where Resources Were Reduced:

- Abraham
- Moses
- Daniel & the 3 Hebrew Children
- Job
- Samson
- David
- Elisha
- The Disciples
- Paul And Silas
- Stephen
- Jesus
GOD’S REDUCTION FACTOR

• “God Isn’t Looking To Use People Who Can Make It One Their Own -- He Is Looking To Use Those Who Can’t Make It Without Him”

• “When You Have Nothing Left But God, Then You Become Aware That God Is Enough.”
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• We Need God -- His Power -- His Plan -- In Our Lives: Without Him We Will Surely Fail

• (John 15:5 NIV) “Without Me You Can Do Nothing”
GOD'S REDUCTION FACTOR

• A Small Band Of 300 Defeating An Army Of 135,000

• God’s Reduction Factor

• Displays The Power & Might Of Our Overcoming God!
• With God Everything Is Possible!!

• (8b) Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. (9) During that night the LORD said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands."
Gideon’s Faith Is Encouraged

- (Judg 7:13 NIV) Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed." (14) His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands." (15) When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands."
FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

- God Knows What We Need To Experience -- To Have Our Faith Encouraged And Strengthened

- God Can And Will Arrange Circumstances And Situations To Do That

- He Will Let Us See Or Hear Or Experience Something That Will Encourage Our Faith
FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

God Knows How To Encourage Our Faith

• God Knows What We Need To Encourage Our Faith In The Midst Of The Battle
• God Is With Us
• We Can Trust In Him

• Gideon Discovered: This Had to Be God
FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

• God Knows How To Encourage Our Faith
  – Before The Battle
  – In the Midst of the Battle
• To Know That Now Is The Time For Battle

• (Judg 7:15 NIV) When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands."
FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

• Gideon’s Encouraged Faith Freed Him To Worship God
  – To Focus On The God Of Possibilities
  – Instead Of On His Own Inability’s

• Gideon Worshipped God = He Turned His Focus Off Of Himself And Onto The Lord
FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

• **In The Midst Of The Battle**
  We Need To Look To The Lord

• **He Alone Is Our Victory**

• **We Don’t Need What Some Denomination Or Preacher Can Do**  -- **We Need What God Can Do!!**

• **We Worship God** – We Focus On Him
FROM WEAK FAITH TO WARRIOR FAITH

Gideon’s Worship Of The Lord:
• Caused Him To Be Ready To Fight & Lead
• Caused Him To Believe The Call & Commissioning
• Put The Focus Back On God
• Ready Him For Battle
• Provides A Time Of Encouragement
• Lifts His Faith Higher