

# Restoring God's Pattern and Purposes

## Molding Men of Strength and Honor Part 4

### *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>*

Over the past few weeks we've been examining how God designed mankind *"in His Image"* (Pattern: Gen. 1:26,27) and *"for his pleasure"* (Purposes: Rev. 4:11). Satan as *"the god of this world"* (2 Cor. 4:4) seeks to diminish or *destroy God's Pattern* (image or reflection) in our lives and *distract us from God's purposes*. (1 Jn. 2:15-17) The Bible is filled with accounts of how God sought to restore His Pattern and fulfill His purposes through men and women who would cooperate with Him. Gideon is one of many such men. 1 Cor. 10:11 reminds us that: *"these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition."* God found Gideon *Fearful, Frustrated, and Fuming* (angry) (Judges 6:11,13) but still saw that He could become *"a mighty man of valor"* (6:12) if he would allow God to develop him. Romans 8:28,29 reminds us that God seeks to use *"all things"* to help restore His image (Pattern) in His people so that we can better fulfil His Purposes.

God used the following to help *"mold"* Gideon into a Mighty Man of Valor:

- A Personal *"Commission"* Judges 6:14 *"thou shalt save Israel, have not I sent thee..."*  
We also have a Personal *"Commandment"* (Mt. 22:37-39) and *"Commission"* (Mt. 28:17-20)  
**A great commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will produce a Great Christian!**
- A Powerful *"Consolation"* 6:16 *"Surely I will be with thee"*  
We also have this same assurance. (Heb. 13:5)
- A Personal *"Commitment"* 6:24 *"Gideon built an altar and called it Jehovah Shalom"*  
God expects the same from each of us. (Ro. 12:1,2; 1 Cor 3:9)
- A Private *"Challenge"* 6:25,26 *"Throw down the altar of Baal"*  
We will each have to do some *"house"* (Heart) cleaning. (2 Tim. 2:19-21; 2 Cor. 10:3-5)  
Accepting the private *"challenges"* will eventually lead us to:
- A Public *"Choice"*. Judges 6:33-35  
Gideon chose to Overcome His own intimidation and indifference and face the enemy.

**Private commitments will be tested in the arena of our Public Choices!**

## 1. God's doesn't need *"Secret"* servants, but courageous Christian *"soldiers"*.

A. God's looking for *"Point Men"* who can *"rally the troops."* Is. 59: 19

*"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."*

1) Moses demonstrated this in Ex 32:26

- a) Moses boldly identified himself with God! *"Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me."*
- b) This gave other *"good men"* a choice: *"all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him."*

B. Gideon became God's *"Point man"*. Jdg 6:34 *"But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him."*

1) Blowing the Trumpet:

- a) Informed Israel of the presence of the enemy.
- b) Informed the enemy of Gideon's presence!
- c) Gave the men a specific point (and person) to rally around. *"Abiezer was gathered after him"*.

## 2. Soldiers must be *"Shaped"*. (trained and equipped)

A. God uses *challenges* to *"change"* (develop) servants into Soldiers.

Let's examine this process in Gideon's life. (Judges 7,8) He grew through:

## 1) Discipline/Endurance.

- a) Patience and obedience when God “whittled” his army down! 7:1-8
- b) Pursued the army *“faint, yet pursuing them”*. 8:4 Why not just let them go?

## 2) Understanding Authority. Mt 8:9 *“I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me:”*

- a) Gideon submitted to God’s authority. (After he obeyed...)  
*“Arise, get thee down to the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.”* Judges 7:9 (past tense!)
  - (1) God encouraged Gideon. invited Gideon to approach the enemy camp and listen. 7:10-14 Vs.15 *“when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped,*
  - (2) Gideon then encouraged his men. *“and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.”*
- b) The 300 submitted to Gideon’s “delegated” authority. *“look on me and do likewise”* 17 Judges 6:16 *“Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.”*

## 3) Using the “equipment” (weapons) available. Vs 16-18

- a) Gideon gave each man a trumpet, pitcher, and a lamp. Vs 16
- b) Their battle cry was *“the sword of the LORD, and of Gideon”*. Vs 18

## 4) Understanding the “rules of engagement”. 7:16-21

- a) Gideon divided them into 3 groups of 100. Vs 16
- b) Each had to “follow the leader”. Vs 17-18 (Blow trumpet, break pitcher, shine lamp, shout!)  
Judges 7:21-22 *“And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. ... and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled. . .”*

Notice that when the enemy began to flee, other “Israelites” got involved! Vs 23

## 5) Avoiding dangerous distractions!

- a) The Critical: 8:1 *“The men of Ephraim (double fruit)... did chide with him sharply.”*
  - (1) Pride was at the root of their anger. (Pr. 13:10) *“only by pride... cometh contention”*
  - (2) When Gideon appealed to their pride (vs 2) they backed off.
- b) The Cowardly (Often disguised as overly cautious) 8:4-8  
The men of Succoth (booths) refused to refresh the 300.  
The men of Penuel (the face of God) also refused.

8:6 *“Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?”*

- Gideon’s men continued until the victory was complete. Vs 11-21
- Israel tried to enthrone Gideon, but he said: *“the LORD shall rule over you.”*
- Gideon “judged Israel” for 40 years of prosperity and peace. Vs 28

**Application: God still uses “challenges” to change (develop) us. 2 Tim. 2**

- 1) Discipline/Endurance. 2 Tim. 2:3 *“endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ”*
  - a) *You’re not just in a battle, but in a war!* (Mt. 13:20,21; Heb. 10:36) *Patience = Endurance*
- 2) Understanding the “chain of command”. Vs. 4 *“please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*
  - a) You have “delegated” Authority. (Mt. 28:18,19) *“all power is given unto me... go ye therefore..”*
- 3) Understanding the “Rules of Engagement”. Vs 5 *“yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”*
  - a) You’re “under” authority. (Mt. 8:9) Know your orders!
- 4) Applying the resources (weapons) available. (2 Tim. 2:24; 2 Cor. 10:3-5)  
*“the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds...”*
  - a) *Make sure your “equipped” for the conflict!* Eph. 6:10-20
- 5) Avoiding Dangerous distractions. 2 Tim. 2:4 *“no man that warreth entangleth himself in this life...”*
  - a) *These usually leave us “snared” by the Devil.* 2 Tim. 2:26; Mark 4:19

- Will you accept God’s Commission & Consolation? (Partnership: Mt. 11:28-30)
- Will you Cooperate with Him in restoring His Pattern and Purposes in/through you?