

Men of Strength and Honor Pt 2 Gideon

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, June 25th

God's Image contains a perfect blend of both "Strength and Beauty". (Zeph. 3:17) Many of those elements are reflected in his creation. (Gen. 1:27) Since "beauty" is more comfortable (safer) than "strength", we tend to focus on the gentler aspects of God's (and mankind's) nature and avoid the more "difficult" and "dangerous" aspects of strength. The reality is that God is often portrayed as a "Warrior". (Zeph. 3:17; Ex. 15:3; Isaiah 42:13, Jer. 20:11, Rev. 19:11-21; 2 Thes. 1:7-9) *Why is it important that we have a complete (and correct) view of God? Because we are the product of what we truly believe! (We "become" like what we "believe and behold" 2 Cor. 3:18) "Many people succeed when others don't believe in them; but rarely does someone succeed when he doesn't believe in themselves."* (Herb True)

GOD BELIEVES IN YOU! That's why He challenges us to reach beyond ourselves and our "natural" abilities. (2 Tim. 2:1,2 *"be strong... endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."*)

God sees you as a he created you: A Champion. A mighty WARRIOR.

How do we get from where (what) we are to where (what) God designed us to be?

How does God transform a "wimp" into a "warrior"? A "civilian" into a "champion"?

God gives us an example in Gideon!

1. His Condition. Judges 6:1-9

A. Sin led to suffering. (Pain)

1) Midianites dominated Israel. *They always "invaded" during harvest.*

B. Suffering led to supplication! (Prayer) Vs 6 *"Israel was greatly impoverished...; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD."*

C. Supplication led a sermon! Vs 7-9 (Prophet)

1) Remember past blessings. vs 8,9

2) Repent of current sins. vs 10

D. The "Sermon" led to a solution. (Gideon!)

1) God found him "hiding" while working. Vs 11.

2) God called him a "Mighty Man of Valor" vs 12

a) "Mighty": gibbôr (powerful warrior)

b) "Valor": Ḥayil (force)

3) Gideon responded with Frustration. Vs 12 *"Why isn't God doing something here?"*

2. His Commission. Judges 6:14-16

"And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?"

A. The Commission (Challenge) always comes before the (Confidence!)

1) He felt unqualified and inadequate. Vs 15

B. God saw more in Gideon than Gideon did.

1) Gideon felt weak – *God saw him as strong!*

2) Gideon felt unqualified – *God saw him as perfect for the job!*

3) Gideon felt insecure – *God saw him with the boldness to lead Israel to freedom!*

C. Committing precedes "equipping"! Vs 16 *"Surely I will be with thee"*

Military Recruits are sworn in before any training!

Vs 24 “*Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah shalom*” (The Lord is my peace)

3. His Challenge.

A. It had to start at Home! 6:25-26 *“throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.”*

B. Gideon’s choice produced:

- 1) Conflict. 31 *“Will ye plead for Baal? ... let him plead for himself”*
- 2) Change. 32 *“that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him”*

C. He was beginning to learn the truths about himself and his God!

- 1) 1 Jn. 4:4 *“Ye are of God, ... have overcome ..because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*
- 2) Ro 8:31 *“If God be for us, who can be against us?”*
- 3) Ps 46:1 *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*
 - a) He’s not just around; He’s living inside of you (1 Jn 4:4).

D. God sees us, not just as we are, But as He made us to be!

- 1) God called Gideon *“a mighty man of valor”* while he was hiding in fear!
- 2) God told Abraham he’d be the Father of many nations, before his first child! Gen. 12:2; 17,5

Conclusion:

- 1) *We serve the same God that Gideon & Abraham served!* Mal. 3:6; Eph 1:3-6
- 2) *He’s already provided everything we need!* 2 Pt 1:3-4 *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, ... Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature”*
- 3) *We have to cooperate with Him for victory!* 2 Pt 1:5-8 *“giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge... temperance... patience... godliness... brotherly kindness ... charity...”*
- 4) *There’s consequences for being AWOL!* 2 Pt 1:9-10 *“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. “*
- 5) *There’s great honor for being faithful!* 2 Pt. 1:10,11 *“if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of Christ. ”*

Application:

Ro 8:37 *“We are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* **That’s present tense!**

We need to start believing and behaving like it!

- 1) **Conquerors are meant to Conquer!**
 - *What do you need to combat and conquer in your life?*
 - *To conquer it you must confront it!* 1 Sam 17:48
- 2) **God made you in “His Image” to be a “Mighty Man of Valor”.**

Satan knows (and fears) this so he tries to “bind the strong man” Mt 12:29-30

 - *What’s Satan using to “bind you”?* *That’s your first battle!*
- 3) **Are We any different from Gideon? Have we forsaken God in our land?**

Are we honoring “idols”? (Even in our own homes?) Has Satan “bound” the strong men?

God is still searching for “Gideons” to find freedom and to “stand in the gap”
(Ezek. 22:30) and fight for His Cause! (1 Sam. 17:29)