



Lesson 62

Lesson 62: What Is Faith? (Part 18) Faith of Gideon

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32

A Difficult Verse! (Hebrews 11:32)

- This will be a challenging verse!
- When it comes to Gideon, Barak, and Samson we see more UNBELIEF than FAITH!!
- Yet, the Holy Spirit tells us that we can learn from these men's faith (Romans 15:4).
 - Gideon - a farmer.
 - Barak - an Army General
 - Samson - a religious Nazarite
 - Jephthah - a bastard
 - David - a child becomes king
 - Samuel - a child becomes a prophet
 - Prophets - those who would proclaim, "Thus says the LORD" - many times at the risk of their own lives.
- These men had faith like many of us! It was mingled with fear, soiled with unbelief and doubt, troubled by human reasoning. We are to learn to imitate their strengths – NOT their failures!
- Read again Hebrews 11:38-39!! These verses challenge us to study and learn!
- What do we do when we come to difficult or hard to understand passages:
 - Do we turn away and leave! See John 6:60-66.
 - Do we ignore them – but we are to **live on every** word that comes from the mouth of God! (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4)
 - Do we incline our ear to wisdom, apply our heart (mind, emotions, and will) to understanding, seek wisdom like silver and hidden treasures (Proverbs 2:2-4)!
 - Do we **seek** answers (wisdom)? Do we seek it in the right place? (1 Kings 10:1-9; James 1:5-8)

- Do we diligently **work** at rightly dividing the word of truth? (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Let's **desire** the milk (1 Peter 2:2) of Scriptures and **start chewing meat** (Hebrews 5:12-13) and **grow** (2 Peter 3:18)!

A Look at Gideon's Faith

THEN (the Background) (Judges 1:1-4)

- The first Hebrew word "Now" is "וְ". It is a conjunction connecting the book of Joshua with this book of Judges.
- We remind ourselves that GOD has a single plan (His counsel; His will; His pleasure). Remember our memory verse: Isaiah 46:9-10.
- We, again, see God **delivering** a nation/kingdom over. This speaks of His sovereignty over all.
- Teaching point: See Ruth 1:1

Israel's Failure to Conquer (Judges 1:27-36)

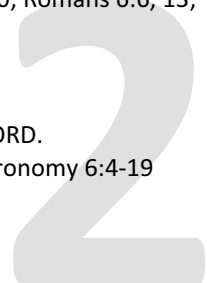
- (Deuteronomy 7:1-2) What God commanded?
- (v. 27) Failure of Manasseh.
- (v. 28) Failure of Israel.
- (v. 29) Failure of Ephraim.
- (v. 30) Failure of Zebulun
- (vv. 31-32) Failure of Asher.
- (v. 33) Failure of Naphtali.
- (v. 34) Failure of Dan.
- (v. 35) Failure of the house of Joseph.

Consequences of Disobedience (Judges 2:1-5)

- (v. 3) God's judgment on His people because of their disobedience.
- (Colossians 3:5) We are to "**mortify**" sin and when we do not completely destroy it it remains as "**thorns**".
- Listen to God in the New Testament: Colossians 3:5-10; Romans 6:6, 13; 8:13; Galatians 5:24; Ephesians 5:3-6.

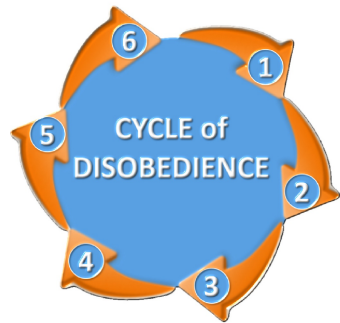
Death of Joshua (Judges 2:6-10)

- Another generation grew up not knowing the LORD.
 - Failure of Parents: See Psalm 78:1-8; Deuteronomy 6:4-19



Israel's Unfaithfulness (Judges 2:11-23)

- After Joshua died and the elders who outlived Joshua who had seen the great works of the LORD, the children of Israel did evil in the sight of God and **served** Baals and the Ashtoreths.
 - ★ God's people are to **serve** God - their Creator, God, Owner, Master, Lord. (Matthew 4:10; 6:24; 25:21, 26, 30; Luke 12:37-38, 43, 46-48; 17:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Hebrews 12:28)
 - JUST AS the LORD had told Moses - see Deuteronomy 31:16-21.
 - They forsook the LORD God of their fathers.
 - They followed other gods from among the gods of the people.
 - They bowed down to them and provoked the LORD to anger.
- (v. 14) "And the anger of the LORD was **hot against** Israel. So He delivered **them** into hands of plunders . . . He **sold** them into the hands of their enemies . . . so that they could no longer stand before their enemies."
- (v. 15) "Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for **evil**." Just as He had sworn: Deuteronomy 32:40-41.
- (v. 16) "**NEVERTHELESS**" - God showed grace and mercy by raising up judges to deliver them from their plunders!
- (v. 17) **BUT THEY DID NOT LISTEN TO GOD'S MESSENGERS!** They refused to obey the commandments of the LORD.
- (v. 18-19) The cycle of disobedience:
 - ① Israel disobeyed.
 - ② God hands them over to their enemies.
 - ③ Israel cries out to the LORD.
 - ④ God raises us a judge to deliver them.
 - ⑤ God's people experience peace.
 - ⑥ As soon as the judge dies they revert back and do worse than their fathers.
- (v. 20-23) God leaves the pagan nations in the land as a **TEST** to see whether "they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." (See Judges 3:1-6) **WE, HERE IN THE 21ST CENTURY, ARE UNDER THE SAME TEST!!!!!!**



God Is A Testing God (Judges 3:1-6)

- He tests us to show us ourselves.
 - ★ Will we obey/listen to Him or to men? (Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 8:2-3, 16; Exodus 15:25-26; 16:4; 2 Chronicles 32:31; Genesis 22:1 [Hebrews 11:17]; James 1:3; 1 Corinthians 11:19)
 - ★ Will we chose the old ways and walk in them or say, “We will not walk in them.” (Jeremiah 6:16-17) But what does God REQUIRE? (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)
 - ★ God tests or “refines” us by fire (trials, tribulations, etc.). (1 Peter 1:5-7; Psalm 66:10; Proverbs 17:3)

The Context of Gideon’s Faith (Judges 5:31-6:10)

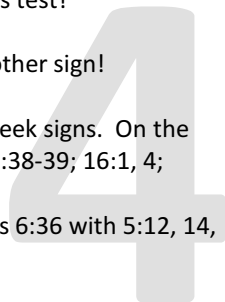
- (5:31) God had **blessed** Israel with **40** years of **rest**! Was this a blessing or a test? And what happened as a result of this **rest**?
- (6:1) “the children of Israel did **evil** in the **sight of the LORD**” – Hebrews 4:13!
 - ★ What was some of the evil? Baal worship was the norm!! It was a crime worthy of death to oppose the worship of Baal!! (6:28-30).
- (6:1) “**SO the LORD** delivered them into the hand of Midian for **seven** years!” – Remember this verse as we go into Hebrews 12!
 - The results of God’s delivering – vv. 4-6!
- (vv. 7-10) God’s response to Israel’s cry!!!

Gideon Called (Judges 6:11-16)

- God calls a **farmer**! God can use **anyone** or **anything** to accomplish His purposes! (See 1 Corinthians 1:26-30)
- Read carefully vv. 12, 14, 16.

Gideon’s Great Unbelief (Judges 6:17-24, 36-40)

- (v. 17) “Show me a sign”
- (vv. 18-24) God shows Gideon a sign!
- (vv. 25-32) God tests Gideon! How **do** you do at this test?
- (vv. 33-35) Gideon gathers an army.
- (vv. 36-40) Gideon’s GREAT unbelief – show me another sign!
- **THE GREAT SIN OF ASKING FOR SIGNS:**
 - ① No where is Scripture are we commanded to seek signs. On the contrary we are warned against it! (Matt. 12:38-39; 16:1, 4; 25:24; 1 Cor. 1:22)
 - ② Seeking signs ignores the Word of God. (Judges 6:36 with 5:12, 14, 16)



- ③ Who are we to tell God what conditions must be met before we believe Him?
- ④ It is the height of pride when we say to God that He has to do something before we will do what He has told us!
- (1 John 5:4) It is our faith that overcomes! ALL disciples of Christ are OVERCOMERS. (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7; 1 John 2:13, 14; 4:4)

Gideon Tested! (Judges 5:25-32)

- A faith not tested is no faith at all.
- Why test our faith?
 - ① To see if our faith is counterfeit or real.
 - ② To strength us for a future task.
- How do I test my faith?
 - FAITH OBEYS no matter the cost!
 - See Matthew 4:18-22
 - See Matthew 9:9
 - See Matthew 14:22-33
 - FAITH FOLLOWS! (Luke 9:23; Luke 18:22; Matthew 10:John 10:27-30; John 21:19-22)
 - FAITH FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY. (See Luke 9:57-62)

God Makes Sure He Gets the Glory (Judges 7:1-21)

- The enemy: See verses 7:12 with 8:10 – 135,000!
- Gideon's army: 32,000 – that made the odds 5 to 1!
- **God** reduces Gideon's army: Those who are fearful were to leave. (See Deuteronomy 20:8. Fear is contagious! – But so is courage!
 - ★ 22,000 leaves and now the odds are 16 to 1!!
- **God** reduces Gideon's army again: How one drinks water.
 - ★ Only 300 are left and now the odds are 450 to 1!!!
- **God** was making it so that Gideon had to trust God and not his army!
 - ★ Psalm 20:7; 33:16-17; Isaiah 31:1; Jeremiah 17:5

The Reward of Gideon's Faith (Judges 7:22)

- He sees **GOD** work!

