"All that the Lord wants is bride who will love Him and be fully dedicated to Him. He wants someone who can share in His glory, participate in His inexpressible joy, and carry the limitless depths of His love."
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GIDEON: THE MIGHTY WARRIOR

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him and said unto him, "The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."
Judges 6:12

Our awesome God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent! These words describe the God Who calls things that are not as though they were, "*...even God who giveth life to the dead and called those things which are not, as though they were*" (Romans 4:17b). He is the God Whose thoughts are not our thoughts, and Whose ways are not our ways, "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, my ways, saith the Lord*" (Isaiah 55:8).

We learn the story of Gideon in Judges 6,7, and 8, and see the results of God calling things that are not as though they were. God sent an angel from heaven to this young man who was full of fear and who was cowardly, but perhaps wisely, threshing wheat behind a wine press so he could hide from a ferocious enemy, the Midianites. (The Midianites lived in what is now Western Saudi Arabia and Southern Jordan.) The Midianites were like the ISIS terrorists of today. The message from heaven

to Gideon, the coward, "*The LORD is with you, mighty man of valor.*" The world saw a 90-pound weakling, but the Lord, who judges our hearts and not our outer appearances (1st Samuel 16:7), saw a mighty warrior who would set His people free. Even today, God often uses the most unlikely candidates to get the job done so that the world will know the victory had to be from God.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GIDEON

1. **He had a prophetic name.** Gideon means *He that bruises* or *Great Warrior* or *Destroyer*.
2. **He was a very unlikely candidate for the job God was giving him:**
   a. **He was full of fear.** Besides our introduction to Gideon as he was hiding in great fear behind the wine press in Judges 6:11, we also are told in Judges 6:27, after the angel's visit, *Then Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had said unto him, and so it was, because he feared his father's household and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.*
   b. **He questioned and blamed God for his nation's present circumstances.** Judges 6:13: *And Gideon said unto Him, "Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all His miracles which our fathers told us of saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.*" Gideon's words lack faith. The Lord had not forsaken Israel. Israel

had forsaken the Lord, and that is why they had all these problems.

c. **He makes excuses to rationalize why he cannot be used by God.** Judges 6:15: *And he said unto Him, "Oh, my LORD, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my Father's house."*

d. **He comes from an idolatrous family.** Judges 6:25: *And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, "Take your father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the grove that is by it."*

3. **Once called, he walked in obedience, building an altar to God after destroying the altar to Baal.** Obedience is very important to the Lord. Samuel tells us that "Obedience is better than sacrifice" (1st Samuel 15:22). We are to follow the Pattern Son who never disobeyed the Father. *Though He was a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being made perfect* [the perfect or complete sacrifice], *became the Author of Eternal Salvation unto all them who obey Him* (Hebrews 5:9).
4. **He had a new name.** *Therefore on that day, he* [Gideon's father] *called him Jerubbaal* [Is an idol anything? Or discomforter of Baal]…(Judges 6:32).
5. **He had the spirit of the Lord.** *But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer* [that is, Abiezer's whole family, probably numbering in the thousands] was gathered after him, and he sent

messengers unto Asher and unto Zebulon and unto Naphtali, and they came to meet with them [the northern territories] (Judges 6:34). *Abiezer* means *father of help*. The Lord always supplies help when we walk in obedience and are doing His business.

6. **He knew where his help came from.** *And the LORD said unto Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me saying, 'My own hand has saved me'* (Judges 7:2). Man tries to work out his own salvation when he really needs only to rely on the Lord for victory.

When the Lord speaks to us, we can be sure that whatever He says will come to pass. But Gideon was not convinced. He wanted a sign, which the Lord graciously gave by sending fire out of the rock to consume the unleavened cakes and the animal sacrifice that Gideon brought, and Gideon called the place Jehovah-shalom, the Lord our peace.

Even after all this, Gideon still had doubts and fears. He put out a fleece for confirmation that the Lord would indeed save Israel by Gideon's hand. The Lord again graciously acted, causing the fleece to be covered with dew but leaving the ground surrounding it to be dry. Then the next morning God caused the fleece to dry and the ground to be wet. Many today believe that we do not put out "fleeces" because we have the Holy Spirit to confirm what the Lord has spoken to us.

The Lord realized that He had to make the odds against the Israelite army unbelievable so that He and not the arm of flesh

would get all the credit. We must realize that it won't be our fleshly efforts that win the epic battles of the Last Days. It is *'not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts"* (Zechariah 4:6b).

The Lord tells Gideon to send home those who are afraid. Twenty-two thousand men left, leaving only 10,000 men to fight the Midianites. In these Last Days the Lord is going to separate those who walk in fear and those who walk in faith. The opposite of fear is faith, and without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). The main weapon against fear, however, is perfect love. John tells us in 1st John 4:18, *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. He that fears is not made perfect in love."* That perfect love is the love of God. Perhaps the greatest revelation that this generation needs at this end of the age is a revelation of how much God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit love us. His perfect love will destroy all our fears.

It is significant that Gideon's army was camped at Mount Gilead. Gilead means *Hill of Testimony* or *Mount of Witness*. There was a famous balm in Gilead that cured wounds. This balm symbolizes the healing ministry. If the Lord is calling an end-time Remnant Company of Mighty Warriors, surely He wants them to walk in health and wholeness. No commander-in-chief wants to send soldiers, who are wounded, into battle. We especially need mental, emotional, and spiritual healing in the world today. In fact, when I occasionally go and speak in other churches, I am usually surprised at how many people sitting in Church today are deeply wounded. Jesus came to make the wounded whole.

There is no scriptural evidence that healing ceased after the original apostles and church leaders of the 1st Century Church died. Church history, moreover, confirms the fact that healing did not die out following the canonization of Scripture and the death of the apostles. I believe the Lord wants us healed from our woundedness and made whole so that we can enter the battle against the kingdom of darkness.

Gideon sent the 22,000 men who were full of fear home. These represent the carnal church. They are born again but at most are the 30-fold, outer court Christians. To make the odds further impossible so that God could get all the glory, the Lord told Gideon to pick from the 10,000 men remaining, those who lapped like a dog, putting their cupped hand to their mouths instead of lying prostrate and drinking the river water directly from river to mouth. Of these 10,000, Gideon sent 9700 home. These 9700 soldiers represent the inner court, 60-fold Christians. I believe they are baptized in the Holy Spirit but not completely sold-out.

The remaining 300 men represent those who have gone to the Holy of Holies, the 100-fold Christians. The significance of this lapping-up-the-water-in-the-cupped-hand is as follows: The hand represents the five-fold ministry, and the water represents the anointing. Also, the fact that these 300 men did not have their faces down in the water allowed them to be watchful all around them in case the enemy was coming. We need Christians today who are watchmen on the wall, who will blow the trumpet, which symbolizes giving prophetic utterance, to mobilize the Body of Christ.

Gideon's army of 300 is one of the most obvious types of the Last Days' Remnant, representing those in Church today who will fearlessly follow the Lord into battle no matter how great the odds are against the Body of Christ. They have been made whole, and they are watchful and ready for battle.

Gideon gave to these men a trumpet, as well as an empty clay pitcher and a burning torch. Again the trumpet represents prophetic utterance. The empty pitcher represents our flesh nature. Paul writes to the Corinthians in 2nd Corinthians 4:7, "*We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.*" The lamps or burning torches within the pitchers represent the Holy Spirit. *For You are my lamp, O LORD, and the LORD will lighten my darkness* (2nd Samuel 22:29). Are you carrying the Holy Spirit in your earthen vessel?

Gideon's army surrounds the Midianite camp right after midnight. Many times it is in the midnight of our lives that we see real victory. We must keep pressing through and keep believing God. Many have not entered into the promises because they have given up just before the Lord was going to move.

When Gideon gives the signal, they blow the trumpets (activating their spiritual gifts), break the pitchers (crucifying their flesh nature), and allow the lamps, inside the inverted pitcher until the pitcher was smash to pieces, to light up the sky, and shout, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." The sword represents the Word of God, and God's inerrant Word had become Gideon's Word. We need to learn the principle of speaking the Word to our situation, just as Gideon did, and we

need to learn to crucify our flesh nature if we are to have victory over the enemy. When we crucify the flesh, we are able to walk in the Spirit under the anointing of the Holy Spirit as a powerful army against the kingdom of darkness.

All of these actions taken by Gideon's army threw the enemy into great confusion. Some of the Midianites started stabbing their own people, thinking they were Israelites. The rest of the Midianites, these previously ferocious terrorists, ran away in defeat and humiliation. They had been so mean-spirited, much like the Jihadists of today, but there is a principle in the Word of God that says, *"For they have sown to the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind"* (Hosea 8:7). God is not mocked, and His Word is true. The Midianites sowed to the wind violence and murder. They reaped a whirlwind of total defeat and destruction. *Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more* (Judges 8:28a).

But Gideon's Army "*stood every man in his place round about the camp*" (Judges 7:21a). There is coming a people who will recognize that everyone has his place in the Church and his part to play. I believe when this order is established that the Christian megastar celebrities will be replaced by a nameless, faceless generation who know their part of play and whose desire it to give all the glory to the Lord. Their fearlessness will be a great testimony of their trust in Jesus. They will stand for Christ no matter what happens on the earth.