

GIDEON, THE FIGHTING FARMER

Judges 6:14

Ordinary People Used By God Series

Introduction: Gideon was a farmer who was very depressed and full of doubt as to whether God cared for Israel or not. It was out of this doubting and despair that God made a deliverer. Gideon's name has been listed among God's most faithful. What turned Gideon's doubts into faith?

I. GIDEON WAS A DOUBTER

1. He found it impossible to reconcile the fact that God was present and Almighty.
 - God was not the kind of God he had been taught to believe He was.
 - God was no longer with and for Israel, it appeared.
 - For some reason, God just wasn't there anymore.
2. Once, God had shown His might through Moses and Israel was a great people.
 - Those days were gone and Israel was now at the mercy of their enemies.
3. A messenger appeared to Gideon and informed him that *"...the Lord is with thee..."*
 - Gideon wasn't very impressed.
 - One cannot blame Gideon for something was indeed very wrong, where was God anyhow?
4. Gideon's mistake was this: he failed to see that the fault was not with God, but with himself and with Israel.
 - Israel was making it impossible for God to do what He was able, eager and willing to do.
 - Instead of Israel waiting on God, God was having to wait on Israel.
 - There are many today who are just like Gideon and Israel, blaming God for not being around, for failing to be the God they think He is supposed to be.
 - The Church often feels this way.
 - Individuals feel this way.
 - **The fault is not with God, for He is well able to be God, He is eager to be God to His Church and to His Children.**
 - **The fault is with His Church and with His Children. God is waiting for them.**

II. GIDEON LOST HIS DOUBTS

1. Gideon was eager to believe that God was still there - somewhere.
 - Many are not like Gideon, however, they pride themselves on their doubts.
 - Doubt is like an eraser. Every time one doubts God, it erases a little bit of God in their life.
2. Gideon refused to allow his doubts to interfere with his duty.
 - Everyone else had given up, the enemy was taking their crops, so why even farm?
 - Gideon continued farming, knowing all the while that he may lose his crops.

3. Gideon was useable, even amidst his doubts.
 - As Gideon became more certain of God's presence, he became more useable.
 - He tore down places of idol worship. He learned that *"...if any man is willing to do God's will, he will pass out of the mists of doubt and perplexity into the bright sunshine of joyous assurance..."*
4. God seems to say: **"Act as if I were really God and really present, and you will find that I am..."**

III. THE OUTCOME OF GIDEON'S CERTAINTY

1. It was only when Gideon became sure of the presence of God that he had the courage to make a stand against the enemy.
2. It was the certainty of God's presence that caused Gideon to become the "man of the hour" for God and Israel.
3. A person without faith continually bows down to his/her enemies.
4. A person with faith realizes that it is not so much numbers that count, but the **people** that are numbered.
 - Those who put their trust in God first.
 - Those who are not afraid.

SUMMARY:

1. Gideon's doubts were no different than the doubts Christians have today.
2. God is not different today than then. God is waiting on us.
3. When Christians allow God to turn their doubts into certainty they will become as useful to God as Gideon became.
4. Remember: **Doubt is like an eraser. Every time one doubts God, a little bit of God is erased in that doubter's life.**