

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week (With no personal agenda)?**
- **Do you know what the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked?**



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

- Last week we looked at God leading His people into a seeming trap! A place with no escape except to Trust Him!
- In that trap – the people panicked EVEN WITH the presence of God with them and having given them the assurance He was leading this time!
- He didn't tell them how He was going to move but that He was leading!
- We've looked at God telling Peter to eat unclean animals & using this vision to have him go to the house of a Gentile and preach Jesus...

- We've seen God asking people to Trust Him even if it doesn't look right, feel right, goes against culture, & even against everything they have practiced their whole life!
- As you and I have been navigating thru the past 3 weeks having God challenge us on Surrender, Obedience, & Trust – **Proverbs 3:5-6** 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.
- How have you been doing?

- Gideon is one of the most known and talked about of the Judges of Israel!
- He led 300 men (This was the first 300!) and defeated the Midianites in battle and then continued the campaign until Israel was set free from the oppression of Midian.
- Let's look at this guy and how Gideon became the Surrendered, Obedient, Trusting warrior he was!

Judges 6 7 When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian, 8 the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. 9 I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. 10 I told you, ‘I am the Lord your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

- Here’s the foundation... they were in the condition they were in because of a lack of Obedience!

11 Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. 12 The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!” 13 “Sir,” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The Lord brought us up out of Egypt’?”

But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.”

- 1st we see Gideon blaming God for the current conditions of life but as we see in the first section the reason they were in this place is their lack of obedience to what God has required of them!
- God moves on behalf of those who trust in Him!
- The nation as a whole had turned from God -
- God’s response to Gideon’s questions as to why things are like they are?

14 Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!”

- God didn’t answer Gideon's questions.... He simply said “Go...” I’m doing something now and I’m doing it with you!!! Gideon’s Response:

15 “But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”

- How many times have we responded “but Lord”?

- Why is our go to response ‘but’?

God’s view of Gideon: “*Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!*”

Gideon’s view of himself: “*...how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family*”

- Why do we struggle that God can... in and thru me?

God’s response to Gideon’s “But”: 16 *The Lord said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.”*

- Gideon should be strapping on his sword right? He has a personal promise from God for victory over the enemy!!! His faith and Trust should be flying high!

Gideon's response: *17 Gideon replied, "If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the Lord speaking to me.*

- So Gideon follows up his "But" with an "If"...
- God assures Gideon that it is Him and God tells him his first act of obedience... God tells him to go pull down his father's altar to the false god Baal & build an altar to the Lord instead....

27 So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord had commanded. But he did it at night because he was afraid of the other members of his father's household and the people of the town.

- What we are learning is this Mighty Hero and Mighty Warrior was also at battle within himself with his ability to be victorious!!
- His struggle continued further...

36 Then Gideon said to God, "If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised, 37 prove it to me in this way.

39 Then Gideon said to God, “Please don’t be angry with me, but let me make one more request.

- You and I have been given the promise of God for victory in our lives!
- This message is NOT to re-assure the doubt in our lives BUT to make us aware that in the acts of Obedience, Surrender, & Trust there is an internal war that is raging as we seek to live in victory in our lives!
- We must learn to Trust over the “buts” and “ifs” that seem to make more sense to us!!

- We need to begin to see ourselves the way God does... not the way we do!
- We are Victorious in and thru our Savior Jesus Christ – we are set free from sin, we are victorious over the enemy, we are delivered, we are more than conquerors... this isn't a rah rah speech to pep you up and get you back out in the game... it's the moment we have to engage our faith and begin to apply it in the battles we are facing in our daily lives!
- God is aware of the personal battle you are facing and He has given you victory over it!

1 John 5 4 For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.

5 And who can win this battle against the world?

Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

- This victory is ours.... We must by faith own it... drowning out the buts and ifs that flood our minds and be assured of the victory that has been given us by our God and act in faith!

Action Steps

- **Have you been doubting victory is yours?**
- **Have the buts and ifs been keeping you from moving forward in living the victorious life?**
- **Will you step forward in the promise of God for this victory in your life?**
- **This is why it is important to spend time in God's Word regularly – that we might be encouraged in our faith and begin to allow God's Word to be the dominant voice in our lives!**