

Essentials

God's Transforming Power

October 16th, 2011

1. God Will Encourage You

Judges 6:11-16 Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree, which belonged to Joash. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!" "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." Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" "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!" The LORD said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

Romans 8:31 "If God be for us, who can be against us."

2. God Will Meet You

Judges 6:17-24 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. Don't go away until I come back and bring my offering to you." He answered, "I will stay here until you return." Gideon hurried home. He cooked a young goat, and with a basket of flour he baked some bread without yeast. ...The angel of God said to him, "Place the meat and the unleavened bread on this rock, and pour the broth over it." And Gideon did as he was told. ...And the angel of the LORD disappeared. When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he cried out, "Oh, Sovereign LORD, I'm doomed! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!" "It is all right," the LORD replied. "Do not be afraid. You will not die." And Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the LORD is peace").

3. God Will Test You...

Judges 6:25-32 That night the LORD said to Gideon, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one that is seven years old. Pull down your father's altar to Baal, then build an altar to the LORD your God here on this hilltop sanctuary, laying the stones carefully. Sacrifice the bull as a burnt offering on the altar" 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. Early the next morning, as the people of the town began to stir, someone discovered that the altar of Baal had been broken down. In their place a new altar had been built, and on it were the remains of the bull that had been sacrificed. The people said to each other, "Who did this?" And after asking around and making a careful search, they learned that it was Gideon, the son of Joash. "Bring out your son," the men of the town demanded of Joash. "He must die for destroying the altar of Baal." But Joash shouted to the mob that confronted him, "Why are you defending Baal? Will you argue his case? If Baal truly is a god, let him defend himself and destroy the one who broke down his altar!" From then on Gideon was called Jerub-baal, which means "Let Baal defend himself," because he broke down Baal's altar.

... SPIRITUALLY - *no other gods.*
... EMOTIONALLY - *tradition, family.*
... PHYSICALLY - *There may be a physical test in your life
that God will use to see how willing you are to follow
directions and instructions.*

4. God Will Help You

Judges 6:34 Then the Spirit of the LORD took possession of Gideon.

Philippians 2:13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

What part do you think you're supposed to play today?

Is your life in a place where you can fully embrace today
and play your part?

If not, what steps do you need to take?