



GIDEON'S COURAGE



Courage to
Trust,
Courage in
Weakness

Judges 6:33 - 7:8

Judges 6:33-34 (CSB)

33 All the Midianites, Amalekites, and people of the east gathered together, crossed over the Jordan, and camped in the Jezreel Valley. 34 The Spirit of the LORD enveloped Gideon, and he blew the ram's horn and the Abiezrites rallied behind him.

Judges 6:35 (CSB)

35 He sent messengers throughout all of Manasseh, who rallied behind him. He also sent messengers throughout Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, who also came to meet him.

“And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans... The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.” (John 14:16-18, 26; CSB)

“He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11; CSB)

Judges 6:36-38 (CSB)

36 Then Gideon said to God, “If you will deliver Israel by me, as you said, 37 I will put a wool fleece here on the threshing floor. If dew is only on the fleece, and all the ground is dry, I will know that you will deliver Israel by me, as you said.” 38 And that is what happened. When he got up early in the morning, he squeezed the fleece and wrung dew out of it, filling a bowl with water.

Judges 6:39-40 (CSB)

39 Gideon then said to God, “Don’t be angry with me; let me speak one more time. Please allow me to make one more test with the fleece. Let it remain dry, and the dew be all over the ground.” 40 That night God did as Gideon requested: only the fleece was dry, and dew was all over the ground.

In the midst of his internal struggle, facing challenges that seem too great for him to handle, Gideon makes the right choice. Demonstrating his trust, he goes to God in PRAYER.

“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. For he knows what we are made of, remembering that we are dust.”

(Psalm 103:13-14; CSB)

God is not safe, but He is good. While we might test God, He also TESTS us, challenging us to exercise courage and practice trust.

Judges 7:1-2 (CSB)

1 Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the troops who were with him, got up early and camped beside the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them, below the hill of Moreh, in the valley. 2 The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many troops for me to hand the Midianites over to them, or else Israel might elevate themselves over me and say, 'I saved myself.'"

“Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son... If you remain in me and my words, remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”

(John 14:13; 15:7-8; CSB)

Judges 7:3 (CSB)

3 “Now announce to the troops,
‘Whoever is fearful and trembling may
turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So
twenty-two thousand of the troops
turned back, but ten thousand remained.

“...The LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.” (Psalm 20:6-8; ESV)

Judges 7:4 (CSB)

4 Then the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many troops. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. If I say to you, ‘This one can go with you,’ he can go. But if I say about anyone, ‘This one cannot go with you,’ he cannot go.”

Judges 7:5-6 (CSB)

5 So he brought the troops down to the water, and the LORD said to Gideon, "Separate everyone who laps water with his tongue like a dog. Do the same with everyone who kneels to drink." 6 The number of those who lapped with their hands to their mouths was three hundred men, and all the rest of the troops knelt to drink water.

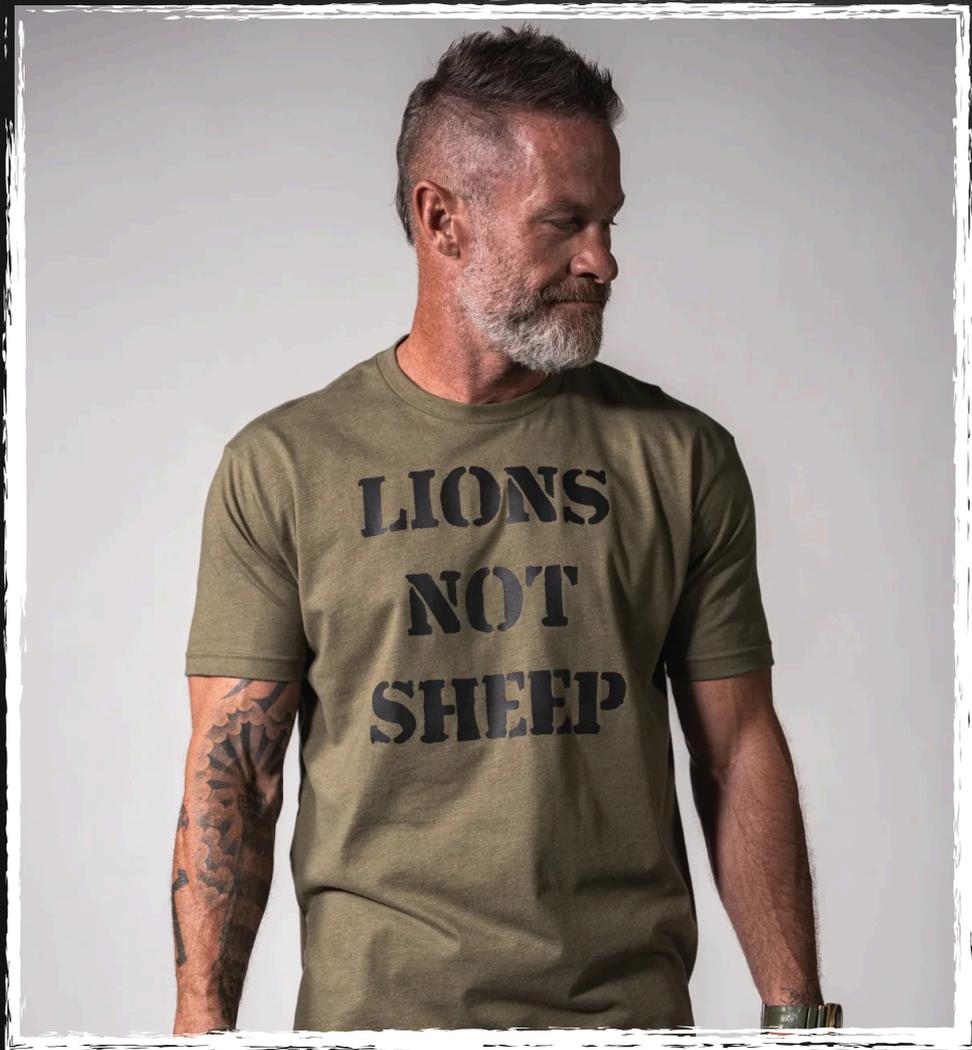
Judges 7:7-8 (CSB)

7 The LORD said to Gideon, “I will deliver you with the three hundred men who lapped and hand the Midianites over to you. But everyone else is to go home.” 8 So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

God intends to send us out in
WEAKNESS to accomplish His good
and holy purposes.

“Look, I’m sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves.”

(Matthew 10:16; CSB)



“Send us like
lions, not
sheep,” we
protest.

“Elisha said, ‘Don’t be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them.’ Then Elisha prayed, ‘LORD, please open his eyes and let him see.’ So the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

(2 Kings 6:16-17; CSB)

“You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

(1 John 4:4; CSB)

God needs us to realize that what we presume to be “strength” is actually no aid to His working. In fact, for true effectiveness, the Lord INSISTS on weakness.

The Lord insists on weakness because
He seeks silence our PRIDE and SELF-
SUFFICIENCY.

“God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, so that no one may boast in his presence.” (1 Corinthians 1:25, 27-29; CSB)

The Lord insists on weakness because
He aims to shift the source of our
CONFIDENCE.

“Not by might nor by power, but by
my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.”
(Zechariah 4:6; NIV)

The Lord insists on weakness because
because it is in step with the LOGIC of
His being-made-new world.

“Truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains by itself. But if it dies, it produces much fruit.”

(John 12:24; CSB)

The Lord insists on weakness because
His power is PERFECTED in
weakness.

“Jesus called a small child and had him stand among them. ‘Truly I tell you,’ he said, ‘unless you turn and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’”

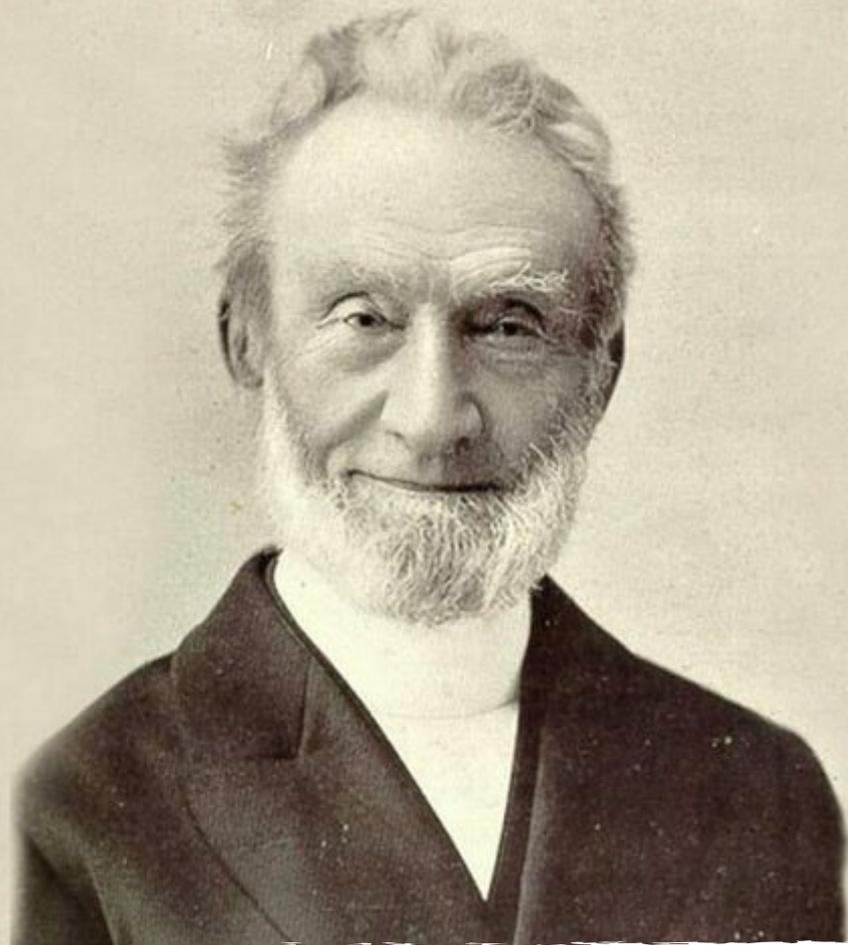
(Matthew 18:2-3; CSB)

“But [the Lord] said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.’ Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

(2 Corinthians 12:9-10; CSB)

- What requirements do you demand from God before you are willing to obey and trust Him?
- What may God ask of you in order for you to experience His power?

*You have more than sufficient grounds for trust and obedience. It's time to choose courage and act!
Trust Him and see the salvation of the Lord!*



George Müller

- 1805-1898 -