



**GIDEON'S  
COURAGE**

# Courage to Act

Judges 7:9-23



“For God has not given me a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, and love, and sound, self-disciplined mind.”

(2 Timothy 1:7)

“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.” (Psalm 127:1-2; ESV)

“The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor... Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you? ... I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”

**(Judges 6:12, 14, 16; ESV)**

“Then Gideon said to God, ‘If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.’ And it was so.”

**(Judges 6:36-38; ESV)**

“Then Gideon said to God, ‘Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew.’ And God did so that night.” (Judges 6:39-40; ESV)

“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; ESV)**

## Judges 7:9–10 (ESV)

9 That same night the LORD said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand. 10 But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant.”

## Judges 7:11 (ESV)

11 “And you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.” Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outposts of the armed men who were in the camp.

## Judges 7:12 (ESV)

12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance.

## Judges 7:13 (ESV)

13 When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, “Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat.”



# Pastry Attack!

## Judges 7:14 (ESV)

14 And his comrade answered, "This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp."

## Judges 7:15 (ESV)

15 As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, “Arise, for the LORD has given the host of Midian into your hand.”

## Judges 7:16 (ESV)

16 And he divided the 300 men into three companies and put trumpets into the hands of all of them and empty jars, with torches inside the jars.

## Judges 7:17-18 (ESV)

17 And he said to them, “Look at me, and do likewise. When I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. 18 When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’”

## Judges 7:19 (ESV)

19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands.

## Judges 7:20 (ESV)

Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”

## Judges 7:21-22 (ESV)

21 Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled. 22 When they blew the 300 trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his comrade and against all the army. And the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

## Judges 7:23 (ESV)

23 And the men of Israel were called out from Naphtali and from Asher and from all Manasseh, and they pursued after Midian.

“Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you...” (Exodus 14:13-14; ESV)

This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand."

**(1 Samuel 14:46-47; ESV)**

**When we know that the Lord is with  
us, we can find the courage to act.**

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

**(Romans 8:31-32, 37; ESV)**

**Shine a light. Lift your song.**

**Plant your feet.**

**Give witness with a defiant shout**

**to the Lord's victory,**

**as you await evil's destruction**

**and the Lord's salvation,**

**and make yourself available to God's good**

**and holy purposes.**