

GIDEON: THE STRENGTH OF FAITH

Part Two: God Strengthens Faith by Using His Power To Displace Your Fears

Judges 6:19-27

- **God Builds Faith in People Dedicated to Sacrificing to Him.**

v. 19

1. Gideon approached God with a sacrifice.

- Be sure that you approach a holy God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Because He sacrificed His life for you, you can now have faith that your sins are covered by His sacrifice.

v. 20

2. Gideon followed the direction of God regarding the sacrifice.

- Not only must the sacrifice itself be acceptable to God, remember Cain and Abel (Genesis 4), but you must follow God's direction in preparing and presenting it to God.

v. 21

3. God accepted the sacrifice with a miracle that Gideon could not misunderstand. God touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire sprang up from the rock.

- **God creates faith in you by displaying His power before you.** If you will look spiritually, God will show you His power by doing things only God can do in your life.

- **Take a moment** and look at your life with spiritual eyes. Notice God’s activity. Gideon had requested that confirm His identity to Gideon. Gideon must have known that only God would accept the sacrifice. So Gideon would have known that God was with Him, personally. God confirmed His presence and command by doing more than Gideon imagined. He accepted the offering with miraculous display of His fire, consuming the offering.

The Angel of the LORD disappeared from Gideon’s sight right after the miraculous display. God had performed the miracle, displayed His supernatural power, and granted Gideon’s request.

• **God Creates Faith by First Humbling You and Then Displaying His Power, Just for You**

- v. 22
1. Gideon understood he had seen the Lord God (אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה).
 - **God communicates to you one on one, but expects you to remember what you have seen and learned.** He shows you things for a purpose, His purpose.
- v. 23
2. God wanted Gideon to know God speaks “**Peace,**” “**No Fear,**” and “**You shall not die.**”
 - This brief verse provides the basis for understanding God’s plan for Gideon’s life.
- v. 24
3. Gideon built an altar to God and named it “The Lord is peace”(יְהוָה שָׁלוֹם). Gideon found peace (“shalom”) before God. Gideon had beheld the power of God, who humbled him, and then spoke peace to him.

- **Nothing surpasses being in the presence of God, as He speaks peace to you.** He removes your fear. Not only does Jesus love you, but He also wants you to know His peace.
- God also loves to leave memorials behind in your life so that others may glorify Him.

Before Gideon set out in faith, he knew that God had spoken peace to him. Gideon erected an altar, that stood as a memorial of God's peace.

• **God Creates Faith by Exercising Your Spiritual Courage**

v. 25

1. God now demands a large, public altar replacing the idols of Gideon's father's.
 - Gideon now has to exercise his faith by taking public, unpopular action.
 - God, having strengthened Gideon's faith with the private miracle now directs a public action: destroy your father's idols, use those materials to build me an altar on the same spot, and I will protect you.

v. 26

2. God calls Gideon to destroy his earthly father's idols, cut down the idol's altar, and sacrifice to God using the idol and asherah (a wooden pole or stripped tree symbolizing this feminine goddess of fertility) as a structure for God's use.
 - **Faith Means that You Obey God's Word to Use His Power to Remove Idols. Drawing People to God often Starts with Removing Their Idols.**

- Faith Means that You **Believe God** When He Speaks to You. God intends that everyone know that He is supreme and no idol or man can claim the victory He is bringing to His people.
- Until you remove your idols, you refuse to trust God alone for victory in your life and hamper His plan for you. Faith enables you to trust Him and give up your old idols you had so much trust in for protection.

v. 27

3. Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as God had spoken to him.
 - **Faith Means that You Act on God's Word, and Do the Things God Has Spoken to You.**
4. Gideon Cut Down the Idols, Built the Altar and Sacrificed Where Only Idols Stood Previously.
 - **Faith Means that You Believe God will Help You Replace Evil Idols with Holy Altars in Your Life.**
5. Gideon Was Too Afraid To Do God's Will by Day, So He Did It at Night.
 - **Faith Means that Even When You Are Really Scared, You Still Follow God's Directions.**

Application. Faith starts by God displaying His power, just for you. Faith requires you to remove idols from your life, and overcome your fear to follow God's Word. God builds faith step by step.