

Faith Conquering Through God - Gideon

TEXT- Hebrews 11:32 - 34

INTRO- The last two groups mentioned in Hebrews 11 are connected wholly to God. The first group CONQUERED THROUGH God and the second group SUFFERED FOR God.

- There are 7 examples of faith.
- There are 10 characteristics of their faith.

The first four are judges and the other three are prophets.

Gideon

Jdg 2:16-17 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. 17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.

- The people failed to drive out the nations of Canaan
- They failed by worshiping the gods of the Canaanites instead of Jehovah.

Jdg 6:4 And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.

Jdg 6:6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

Jdg 6:11 And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.

Twelve times God spoke to Gideon.

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Gideon needed to be prepared for the work of God.

God needed a mighty man of valour.

- 7 Times God speaks to him at the winepress.
- The wine press was Gideon's back side of the desert.

Gideon needed to be made humble for God to use him.

1. "The Lord (Jehovah) is with thee"

Jdg 6:12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.

2. "Go in this thy might"

Jdg 6:14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

The Lord humbled him.

Jdg 6:15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

3. "I will be with thee"

Jdg 6:16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

Jdg 6:17 And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

4. "I will tarry until thou come again"

Jdg 6:18 Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again

5. Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock,

Jdg 6:20 And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so.

This was followed by a miracle

Jdg 6:21-22 Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. 22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

6. "Peace be unto thee; fear not"

Jdg 6:23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

In token of this peace Gideon built an altar which is connected the title "Jehovah Shalom" The Lord send peace Gideon awaits the final command.

7. "throw down the altar of Baal" "build an altar unto the LORD"

Jdg 6:25-26 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: 26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

God speaks to Gideon 5 more times. All were commands and Gideon heard believed and obeyed.

Jdg 7:2-5 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. 3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful

and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. 4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. 5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lapped of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

Jdg 7:6-7 And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men; but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. 7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

Jdg 7:8-9 So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley. 9 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

1. Work begins with God
2. The heart must be moved
3. Recognition of our weakness
4. Experience peace
5. God is worshipped
6. obedience is the key to victory

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