

Remnant Life Church  
November 17, 2024  
**Principles for Winning a Spiritual Battle**  
**Part 3**  
Judges 7:9-15

Preparation  
Strategy

**1. God Renews His Promises**

- a. Gideon began his journey from fear to faith by hearing from God
  - i. For us, it is by hearing from His Word
  - ii. Paul writes in **Rom 10:17** – *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*
  - iii. Paul specifies this because we must always be on guard about who and what we are listening to
- b. God’s Word is filled with His commands that, when followed, bring His promises to the place of fulfillment in our lives
- c. Consider what that meant for Gideon
  - i. **Jud 7:9** - *During that night the LORD said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands.*
  - ii. *Get up, go down against the camp...*
    1. That was the command for Gideon
    2. If he had not obeyed God, he never would have heard what the soldier said
  - iii. *I am going to give it into your hands*
    1. That is the promise
    2. But it came with a requirement of obedience
- d. The first strategy for victory is to hear and obey the Word of God
  - i. This should be a familiar pattern of behavior for the Christian
    1. God does not issue His commands without giving us reasons
    2. But the reasons are most often promises that have to be claimed in faith
    3. And we must have faith if the command is to be obeyed
  - ii. One of God’s commands is that we pray and believe in the power of prayer
    1. Prayer requires faith because, while God will always answer our prayers, many times the answer is no or wait
    2. Great faith is required to wait on God
  - iii. So often, our faith is weakened or even paralyzed by our fear
    1. And the challenge of faith is more difficult for the more “mature” person
    2. For instance, learning to swim is much easier as a child than as an adult
      - a. A child more easily trusts the instructor

- b. They have not developed such deep-seated habits of mistrust and even fear
- iv. So, it is also true for us to move from fear to faith in the times of spiritual battles
  - 1. Many people have habits of practical unbelief that need to be broken
  - 2. The most powerful kind of faith is the simplest, the most child-like
- v. The strategy of moving from fear to faith begins with the renewing of God's promises

## 2. God's Providence is Revealed

- a. Another word for providence is care or provision
- b. But there is a very important point here that we must all understand about the nature of God as it relates to His provision
  - i. While He will care for you and provide, He will not compromise His commands in order to accommodate your weaknesses
  - ii. But His providence, His care does meet us with what He sees we need the most
  - iii. At times His providence will add to our lives, and at other times He removes
- c. In Gideon's case, he needed his remaining doubt to be removed
  - i. Once again, satan is always coming against us in any way he can to discourage us, wear us down, and bring doubt into our minds
  - ii. *Doubt is the soil in which fear takes root*
  - iii. And fear will weaken your faith
- d. How many times have your thoughts been – even thoughts directed at God...
  - i. I can't see how this situation will ever work out
  - ii. And because of that doubtful thinking, you stop believing that it will
  - iii. Why? Because doubt suffocates faith
- e. There is, however, one thing that you can be certain of - God's providence is working out His sovereign will at all times, even when you cannot see it
  - i. But is that not the very substance of faith?
  - ii. **Heb 11:1** –*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
  - iii. But let's face it, that is not how the world lives
    - 1. For the world to believe it must be touched and experienced to be called real
      - a. Yet God even met us at that place of disbelief in a way that could be experienced by everyone
      - b. God sent His Son in the flesh of human form at a particular moment in history, to a specific geographic location, through a singular lineage, and with a set mission
      - c. All of it presented throughout the prophetic books of the OT, with some written nearly a thousand years before it all happened

2. John confirms this when he writes, *The Word became flesh and lived among us so that He could be heard, seen, and touched* (**John 1:1,2,14**)
  - a. This is the providence of God seen at its most important moment
  - b. And it is His providence, His assurances that He gives to us in the midst of our trials, our struggles, and our battles
3. I wonder, do you have the faith this morning to believe in that even when you may not be able to see it?

### 3. His Person is Revered

- a. In other words, in the times of the battles, we must worship God as the most vital expression of our faith
- b. Worship is what takes your eyes off of yourself and places them fully on God
- c. Worship is a refocusing of what is truly important
- d. It is so very easy to get lost in the weeds of what is going on in the moment that will cause you to lose sight of what truly matters
  - i. But in worship, you give Him thanks
    1. Even when the circumstances are difficult
  - ii. In worship, you exalt Him as the creator and ruler of the universe
    1. And that reminds you of His sovereignty in all things
  - iii. In worship, you surrender yourself to Him
    1. That surrender means giving up your will and desiring His will for your life
- e. While doubt may be the soil for growing fear, worship is the fuel that will energize you through the times of spiritual battles

Finish by taking a look at the dream the Midianite soldier had as a way to see how God is fully present even in the smallest details

- **Judges 7:13** - *Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed."*
  - f. Recognize first that God sent this dream
    - i. It was a divine revelation
    - ii. Call it a warning or a prophetic insight
    - iii. But there was purpose and meaning behind it
  - g. Barley was the cheapest of the edible grains
    - i. It was worth half of what the same amount of wheat was
    - ii. It was the grain of the poor
      1. Yet we see it used by God to demonstrate His power
      2. In part to show that man's wealth and value is of no importance in the Kingdom of God
        - a. What were the five loaves made of that Jesus used to feed the 5000?
        - b. Barley (**John 6:8-10**)

- c. God predominantly used the poor and the weak to accomplish His will
- iii. And was that also not how Gideon saw himself?
  1. The weakest and smallest of all the people
  2. But God did not change Gideon's physical abilities, He changed his thinking
  3. Because it is our thoughts that allow doubt to take root, and doubt gives way to fear
- iv. To the Midianite, Barley was certainly an inferior grain
  1. Who or what else was inferior in the eyes of the Midianites?
  2. The nation of Israel
  3. That is why the soldier so quickly understood the dream's meaning
- h. Then he says the barley loaf tumbled into the camp
  - i. That word tumbled in TOL means to overthrow, turn around, or overturn
  - ii. The power of God was going to use this small number of men to overthrow the more powerful enemy and it was going to happen regardless of what it appeared to be in the natural

God will provide the strategy you need in the times of your battles

- But your doubts and your fears must give way to faith through His promises
- You must trust God for His hand of provision to give you what you need
- And you must keep your eyes on Him in worship throughout the duration of the battles

The first principle is found in God's preparation

The second principle is the strategies He provides

Next Sunday, how did God execute those strategies?

There is always purpose and fulfillment in all that God did and continues to do in our lives today.