

THE LIFE OF GIDEON

4. Gideon's Test



Introduction

Daily we are hearing about wars taking place around the world. However God is preparing His army to fight a very different battle. As we look into the life of Gideon once again, we can learn some important lessons about how to prepare for the spiritual battle we are in.

Scripture Reading: Judges 6:25-32

📖 What did God ask Gideon to do? v25-26

(To tear down the altar of Baal and the Asherah pole, build an altar to the Lord and then sacrifice a bull as a burnt offering to the Lord.)

📖 Why do you think God asked Gideon to do this BEFORE he used him in battle?

(God's command was that His people should have no other gods. Gideon had to be obedient to God if he was going to have victory over the enemy. Not only that, if Baal had not been destroyed the people would have given him credit for the victory instead of God.)

📖 What likely opposition would Gideon face if he obeyed God? v27 Why? v25

(Firstly he would face opposition from his father, as the altar belonged to him and so did the bull he sacrificed. Secondly he would face opposition from the men in the town because they also worshipped Baal there.)

📖 Imagine this happened to you! Your father has a big altar in the garden and God asked you to destroy it! What would go through your mind?

📖 You may never have faced this situation, but there may be altars or strongholds in your mind that need to be torn down. What are some of those altars or strongholds that erect themselves in the minds of people today?

📖 How can we destroy these altars/strongholds in our minds according to 2 Corinthians 10:3-6?

(We need to judge our thoughts against the standard of God's Word. If we realize they are contrary to God's Word, then we must not allow them to control and influence our minds. We have been given divine weapons to help us in this battle: the Word of God, prayer, the blood of Jesus, etc.)

📖 We have seen the importance of obedience in warfare. When we obey God we can trust Him to take care of the consequences. How did God take care of the situation for Gideon? Judges 6:31

(God used Gideon's own father, Joash, to speak up and defend him.)

📖 Share a time in your life when God has asked you to do something and when you obeyed you saw God over-rule the obstacles, even though you felt afraid at the time.

Conclusion

When we have made Jesus our Lord and Saviour we must learn to obey what He tells us to do. Failure to do so brings defeat in the battle! The wonderful thing though is that we can trust God with the outcome. Just as we have seen how God took care of Gideon when he obeyed what the Lord asked him to do, even though it seemed difficult, we can be sure that He will do the same for us.

Scripture Memory

Here is a verse for the group to memorize:-

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.
On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”

2 Corinthians 10:4