

OUR GOD'S FAILURES & FAITHFULNESS

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Part 10 — “Delighting in God’s Providence” — July 20, 2025

Introduction: The Sovereignty & Glory of God

“The attributes of God make clear that God is supreme over all. He yields to no other power, authority or glory, and is not subject to any absolute greater than Himself. He represents perfection to an infinite degree in every aspect of His being. He can never be surprised, defeated, or uncertain. However, without sacrificing His authority or jeopardizing the final realization of His perfect will, it has pleased God to give to men a measure of freedom of choice, and for the exercise of this choice, God holds man responsible.”

—Chafer & Walvoord, *Major Biblical Themes*

Isa. 42:8—I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

Main Point: The Lord’s testing of Gideon shows us that He invites us to _____ in His glory as we learn to trust and obey Him.

Judges 6:36-7:25

God’s Word to Israel had indicted them of their sin, but His Word for them was shown in the Angel of the Lord’s patient preparation of Gideon to be their deliverer. Having demonstrated His power to Gideon both privately and publicly, the Lord clothed him with His Spirit so that the armies of Israel might be called forth to face the Midianites.

Exposition:

1. In response to Gideon’s insecurity, the Lord once again gave a demonstration of his _____. (6:36-40)

Judges 6:37,39—³⁷ 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.” ...³⁹ 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.”

“as you have said”

“And God did so that night”

“YHWH is willing to deal with the reality of his doubt. He honors Gideon’s arbitrary request for signs and responds graciously to them.”

—Boda & Conway

Key Point: The Lord is under no obligation to give us assurance beyond that of His Word, but He _____ and at times He _____.

2. The Lord _____ Gideon’s faith in preparation for the battle. (7:1-8)

Observations:

1. The setting of this portion of the account is important to keep in mind.

“Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped”

2. The Lord determined to decrease the size of the fighting force so that the victory would not be _____.

“lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’”

3. Gideon was first instructed send away all who were _____.

4. He was then told to bring the rest to the water so that the Lord might choose those who would go with Gideon.

“Everyone who laps water with his tongue”

“everyone who kneels down to drink”

Key Point: The Lord receiving the glory He is due is the _____ thing for us as His people.

3. The Lord demonstrated His _____ both before and during the battle with the Midianites. (7:9-25)

Observations:

1. God exhorted Gideon on the eve of battle, but also offered to him a glimpse of His sovereignty.
“Arise, go down...” *“But if you are afraid...”*
2. Both the dream and its interpretation demonstrated the Lord’s control over all things.
3. Gideon responded rightly to all that he had heard.
“he worshiped” *“Arise, the Lord has given...Midian into your hand.”*
4. Gideon’s instructions to the men seem to indicate that he was seeking a measure of _____ for the coming victory.
5. It was the Lord who was the ultimate _____ of Israel’s victory.
6. At some point, Gideon called for the Ephraimites to join the battle.

Key Point: As we _____ and _____ the Lord we have the opportunity to rejoice in the work that He accomplishes in and through us.

Assessing Gideon

While the account certainly demonstrates Gideon’s faith in the Lord, it also shows a worrying tendency for him to move beyond this into a sense of self-_____ and self-_____.

Applying the Text

1. God calls us to _____ our responsibilities in faith.
Prov. 9:16—The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.
Jer. 10:23—“I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.”
James 4:13-16—¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.
2. A proper understanding of God’s sovereignty over all things leads us to rightly _____ in him and not in ourselves.
Jer. 9:23-24—²³ Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”
Rev. 4:11—“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

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