

# ***The Power of Grace***

*A lesson from Gideon – Judges 6, 7, 8.*

## **1. Again the Israelites were oppressed**

*Judges 6:1-10. Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, & for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites.*

Israel was in sin, disobedience & rebellion.

God used Midian to judge them.

They cried out – but did not listen to the Lord.

*“I said to you, I am the Lord your God; ... But you have not listened to me.”*

## **2. God choses Gideon**

*Judges 6:11-12 “...The Lord is with you, mighty warrior”*

The Lord came to Gideon – (General & Specific).

## **3. Gideon questions God**

*Judges 6:13 Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders...But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”*

Why, if, where, but!

God is not upset by Gideons questions.

#### **4. 'I AM' is sending Gideon**

*Judges 6:14 “Go in the strength you have...Am I not sending you”*

#### **5. Gideon is ordinary – God is powerful**

*Judges 6:15-16 “But Lord, how can I save Israel...my clan is the weakest...I am the least...”  
The Lord answered, “I will be with you...”*

#### **6. God extends grace to Gideon**

*Judges 6:17-22 ..Gideon replied, “If now I have found favour in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Please do not go away until I come back & bring my offering & set it before you.” ..And the Lord said, “I will wait until you return.” ... “Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!”*

God patiently extends grace to Gideon.

#### **7. Gideon is fearful and obedient**

*Judges 6:24-27 So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace...  
So ... Gideon...did as the Lord told him. But because he was afraid of his family & the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.*

Although fearful - Gideon obeyed the Lord.

## **8. Gideon is threatened**

*Judges 6:28-33 ...The people of the town demanded of Joash, “Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal’s altar & cut down the Asherah pole beside it.” ...*

Because of Gideons obedience in destroying the idols his life is threatened!

## **9. God anoints Gideon**

*Judges 6:34-35 Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon, & he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him...*

## **10. Gideon has more questions**

*Judges 6:36-40 Gideon said to God, “... I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece & all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand,” ... Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry & let the ground be covered with dew.” That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.*

Gideon has more misgivings, fears & questions.  
God extends more grace to Gideon.

## **11. God uses Gideon against huge odds**

*Judges 7:1-8 ..The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, ‘My own strength has saved me.’” The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you & give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.”*

135K Midianites to 32K, 10K, 300! (450 to 1)

Only God’s Grace & Power can deliver Israel!

## **12. A great victory takes place**

*Judges 7:9-25 ...the Lord said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah & listen to what they are saying.*

*Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.” ... (A Midianite said) “God has given the Midianites & the whole camp into his hands.” ...*

*“Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands” ...The three companies blew the trumpets & smashed the jars. Grasping the*

*torches in their left hands & holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the Lord & for Gideon!” While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.*

Divine strategy & Gods Power = VICTORY!

***This is the Power of Grace in action!***

***Three qualities we see in Gideon...***

### **1. Honesty**

Very open & transparent.

Shared his fears, doubts & struggles.

### **2. Humility**

Bowed before God in worship.

Aware of his human limitations.

Knew he needed God.

### **3. Obedience**

He did what God told him to do.

He obeyed even when afraid.

***Gideon experienced the incredible Power of Grace!***