



THE
**OTHER SIDE
OF FEAR**

Empowerment in Fear

Power

Judges 6-8

05.19.19

Brian Lightsey

Judges 6:1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. (NIV)

When we turn from God, he allows our sin to overrun and oppress us. (Judges 6:1-10)

When we are overtaken by life, we often hide in our fears and question our God. (Judges 6:11, 13)

To be empowered in my fear, I need to:

- **Identity: Believe who God says I am.** (Judges 6:12-16)

Judges 6:12 When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." (NIV)

God does not call me according to my present situation but according to his future plans for me.

- **Clarity: Seek confirmation of God's call.** (Judges 6:17-24, 36-40)

Judges 6:17 Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me." (NIV)

Judges 6:23 But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." 24 So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace... (NIV)

In my fear, I can experience peace not because I am out of the difficult situation but because God is with me in the difficult situation.

- **Loyalty: Put God first above all.** (Judges 6:25-35)

Judges 6:25 That same night the Lord said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. 26 Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering." (NIV)

In order to put God first in my life, what do I need to tear down and what do I need to build up?

- **Dependency: Trust God to be my sufficient strength.** (Judges 7-8)

Judges 7:2 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.'" (NIV)

God often thins out resources so we must depend on him, the source.

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NIV)

Judges 8:28 Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon's lifetime, the land had peace forty years. (NIV)

- **Today I trust God to empower me in my fears.**