

LEARNING HOW TO TRUST GOD

Part 12 –Be A Champion
Hebrews 11:32

Pastor Mark Hartman
May 18, 2014

*Hebrews 11:32 “And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of **Gideon**, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets...” (NASB)*

There are 7 key periods of the Old Testament from Abraham to Malachi:

1. Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (2000 BC)
2. Egyptian bondage (1900-1500 BC)
3. Moses and Joshua – Promise Land (1500-1400 BC)
4. Dark ages of the **Judges** (1400-1000 BC)

A judge during the dark ages of Israel’s history was a **deliverer** from an enemy, oftentimes a military general.

I. GOD USES **ORDINARY** PEOPLE.

A. *Judges 6:11-12 “Then the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out **wheat** in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites. ¹² And*

the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior."

1. Gideon is beating out wheat in the wine press out of **fear**. (Judges 6:11-12)
2. Gideon is even **frustrated** with God.

*Judges 6:13 "Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And **where** are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."*

3. *Judges 6:15 "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the **least** in my family." (NIV)*

- B. *1 Corinthians 1:26-27 "Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. ²⁷ Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And He chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. (NLT)*

II. GOD USES **CLEANSED** PEOPLE.

An idol is **anything** we love more, fear more, serve more, value more than God.

III. GOD USES PEOPLE WILLING TO **TRUST** HIM.

- A. Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is the willingness to do the **right thing** in spite of fear.
- B. *Judges 7:13-15 "Gideon crept up just as a man was telling his companion about a dream. The man said, "I had this dream, and in my dream a loaf of **barley bread** came tumbling down into the camp. It hit a tent, turned it over, and knocked it flat!" ¹⁴ His companion answered, "Your dream can mean only one thing—God has given Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite, victory over Midian and all its allies!" ¹⁵ When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship before the LORD. Then he returned to the Israelite camp and shouted, "Get up! For the LORD has given you victory over the Midianite hordes!" (NLT)*
- C. God used a handful of **ordinary** people willing to trust Him to do the impossible.

CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.

