

Judges 6:33-35

33 Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the sons of the east assembled themselves; and they crossed over and camped in the valley of Jezreel. **34** So the Spirit of the Lord ^[a]came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him. **35** He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, and they also were called together to follow him; and he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they came up to meet them.

Judges 6:36-40

36 Then Gideon said to God, “If You will deliver Israel ^[b]through me, as You have spoken, **37** behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that You will deliver Israel ^[c]through me, as You have spoken.” **38** And it was so. When he arose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece, he drained the dew from the fleece, a bowl full of water. **39** Then Gideon said to God, “Do not let Your anger burn against me that I may speak once more; please let me make a test once more with the fleece, let it now be dry only on the fleece, and let there be dew on all the ground.” **40** God did so that night; for it was dry only on the fleece, and dew was on all the ground.

The three T's of Gideon

1. The Task
2. The Test
3. The Trust

THE TASK

What is the Task? The task is the call God has on your life. It is the calling of the will of God to your spirit. It begins with the recognition of needing God. The winepress mentality when you say to yourself “I can’t do this on my own anymore”. When you know God has a greater purpose for your life other than the same old rut you seem to stay in. In the wine press Gideon was looking at the end of the road with no purpose and he began to question, “What of the stories of ole where you delivered the people?” Lord we need to be delivered, we need salvation, we need you, I need you Lord to get me from the wine press.” Maybe those were his thoughts, I don’t know, but it is not that far outside the realm of possibility. We have all been at the end of the road from time to time and cried out for salvation...The call of salvation is on every man’s life.

The Apostle Paul wrote in the book of Thessalonians, “He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2Thessalonians 2:14 NLT). And, in Romans we read: “for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” (Romans 11 :29). Gideon was calling out for salvation and salvation was calling out to Gideon and God was setting a new task before him. His task was to bring people to salvation as well.

God knew the state of Gideon. He knew Gideon’s fear. And God was calling Gideon out of the fear. “He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out” (John 10:3 NLT).

In the fear and in the doubt, Gideon was not qualified to lead a people. We are not called because we are qualified, but we are *qualified* because God calls us. We cannot be qualified with in our self. A true call is somewhere outside our capabilities. When God calls us to a task, He will equip us. And God will place us on a higher ground. Gideon was called up out of the wine press. We are called up out of our life situations and called to walk on higher ground.

God knows exactly the state we are in, our gifts, our weaknesses and He will provide all that is needed to answer the call because his call is transformational! What task did he set before Gideon? A task of setting the people free from the oppressor. God knew Gideon, he knew his fears, his weaknesses. From the moment God called Gideon, God was equipping Gideon. What task is before us? What hinders us? Our weaknesses, our fears, our insecurities, God knows them all and he is still calling us. We are called from the wine press just like Gideon. **Matthew 28:19** ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **Mark 16:15** ¹⁵He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. We need to get out of the wine press and realize the task before each of us is to set people free from the oppressor

THE TEST

33 Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the sons of the east assembled themselves; and they crossed over and camped in the valley of Jezreel. 34 So the Spirit of the Lord ^[a]came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him. 35 He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, and they also were called together to follow him; and he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they came up to meet them.

In verses 33-35 both sides assemble forces to prepare for battle. We're told that "the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon" (34). The original Hebrew literally says "the Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon." God's Spirit selected, anointed, and empowered Gideon. The same power is available for us.

In verses 36-40, in spite of an encouraging recruitment response from the tribes of Israel, Gideon again asks God for reassurance, a visible sign.

Gideon's asking for a sign has nothing to do with determining God's will—A lot of commentaries speak of Gideon's fleece test as a sign of his doubt and fear and lack of trust. Maybe that is a true way of seeing the fleece test. We need to remember that with each task God had given Gideon, Gideon moved forward, even in fear. He stepped out of the winepress. He tore down the altars of Baal. He built an altar for God. And He called an assembled army to fight. Gideon wanted to know without a doubt that

God was on his side, so he put out the fleeces. How many times have we done that?

The Craig's list adventure!

Let's look a step beyond the fleece, can we not see the patience and the beauty of the spirit of God. How he lovingly allowed the ground to be wet and the fleece to stay dry. And then the next day how God soaked the fleece but kept the ground dry. I don't know about you but that is the kind of God I serve, one who is patient with me, one who is growing me into the person he created me to be. Isn't that the God you serve?

I think sometimes we are so caught up in our failures and in self-doubt that we forget that we are a new creation in him. And that he is growing us into the new man. **2 Corinthians 5** ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, hhe is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. That the old man is passed away. We are so caught up in what we can not do that we fail see what God is doing. God is slowly bringing Gideon from an element of fear and mistrust to an element of confidence and trust. **2 Peter 3:9**. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise ^{as} some count slowness, but is patient toward you,¹ not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

What is God slowly bringing us from? What is he calling us to? Put out your fleeces and test the spirit, and trust and know that what ever is before you God will lead you and equip you.

TRUST

Sometimes we just need to blindly trust. God has never failed us even though we have time and time again failed God. Fear does a lot to a person. Fear of rejection, of being inadequate, but fear is not of God.

A man just got married and was returning home with his wife. They were crossing a lake in a boat, when suddenly a great storm arose. The man was a warrior, but the woman became very much afraid because it seemed almost hopeless:

The boat was small and the storm was really huge, and any moment they were going to be drowned. But the man sat silently, calm and quiet, as if nothing was happening.

The woman was trembling and she said, "Are you not afraid?". This may be our last moment of life! It doesn't seem that we will be able to reach the other shore. Only some miracle can save us; otherwise death is certain. Are you not afraid? Are you mad or something? Are you a stone or something?

The man laughed and took the sword out of its sheath. The woman was even more puzzled: What he was doing? Then he brought the naked sword close to the woman's neck, so close that just a small gap was there, it was almost touching her neck.

He said, "Are you afraid?"

She started to laugh and said, "Why should I be afraid?, If the sword is in your hands, why I should be afraid? I know you love me.

"He put the sword back and said, This is my answer". I know God Loves me, and the storm is in His hands

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Let us remember that we all have a task before us, and that can be frightening, but God is with us. Just as the ***Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon***. He will clothe us. It is ok to test the spirits for God is patient with us recreating us into what He has called us to be. Trust him for he loves you, always has and always will...Get out of the wine press and move to his higher ground.

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Dede

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