



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### I Can Do All Things!

**Focus Verse:** Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**Lesson Text:** Judges 6:14-21; 7:19-25

**Truth About God:** God can use anyone.

**Truth For My Life:** I am able to do impossible things with God.

The story of Gideon demonstrates that God can use anyone to do great, even impossible works. God alone knows the full potential of each individual. He invites us to be part of what He is doing, despite how impressive or unimpressive our resume or pedigree may be because victory or success rests in His power. He invites humanity to partner with Him, and His Spirit will make up the difference where we lack. From Gideon's perspective, God did not have much to work with, but from God's perspective, it was just enough. He was saying, "**Where you lack, I am more than enough.**" The Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon (Judges 6:34), like it came on others in the Old Testament when they were called to perform a task or were ordained for an office.

Since the Day of Pentecost and the birth of the church, the Holy Spirit is a gift for everyone who rightly responds to the gospel of Jesus Christ, not just to individuals in specific roles. One role of the Spirit is the same now as it was for Gideon; the Spirit equips God's servants to do the work He has called us to do (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10).

God thinned Gideon's army, he started out with 32,000 men, 22,000 left because they were afraid, 10,000 troops went to the brook and Gideon watched them drink water. Only 300 hundred of them kept watch as they drank. God and Gideon kept them and sent the other 9,700 home (Judges 7:1-7). God made victory nearly impossible by reducing Israel's army to three hundred to face an innumerable, mighty Midianite army, which is precisely how He wanted it. God knows humanity tends to take the credit for success. If they won with three hundred, only God could have saved them. Without a doubt, God wants to use us, but our part should always glorify Him, not us.

The fearsome Israelite army was a band of three hundred men with pitchers, torches, and trumpets—and Almighty God. That is all Gideon had to go to war with. Gideon had no idea that the enemy was as afraid of him (Judges 7:11, 13-15) and his God as he was afraid of them. Gideon returned to his micro army with newfound courage. Right around midnight, and on Gideon's signal, the Israelites blew the trumpets, broke the pitchers, and shouted their war cry. Suddenly God rose up and sent the enemy into a panic.

They were so confused, so surprised, they drew their swords on each other. Most Midianites died of "**friendly fire.**" Others ran for their lives from a fistful of people with pitchers and torches and trumpets. Remember, these were the same Midianites who had bullied Israel and destroyed their crops for the last seven years.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see God depicted as a holy warrior fighting for His people. Moses told the Israelites who were being hunted down by angry Egyptians: "*The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace*" (Exodus 14:14). The Levite Jahaziel told King Jehoshaphat's army: "*The battle is not yours, but God's. . . . Ye shall not need to fight in this battle*" (2 Chronicles 20:15-17). King Hezekiah boldly declared: "*With us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles*" (2 Chronicles 32:8). **Though we may not be fighting flesh-and-blood armies like Israel did, God invites us to rest in Him and His power.** When He wins, only God gets the glory because God fights the battle.

We may respond to God's invitation to join His great and grand plan. A most encouraging verse in the Bible is Psalm 103:14: "*For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.*" God knows our human emotions will get the better of us and paralyze us at times. The way God interacted with Gideon demonstrates how God will work with us right where we are. God is not bothered by or surprised by our humanity; He knows we often fear and doubt. He is simply calling us to trust Him even in those moments.

What about you? **What enemy are you facing that you know you are too powerless to fight?** God is able to fight our battles for us, even when we feel like we have less than little to offer. All we must do is say, "**yes, Lord**" to whatever He asks, do whatever He asks, and then give Him the glory for fighting the battle He alone will win.