

Hebrews 11:32a & Judges 7

Gideon

The need for judges ...

- I. Gideon' Growth in Grace
 - A. Out the Winepress
 - B. To a Place of Peace
 - C. To Face the Enemy Within
- II. Jerubbaal's Affirmed Faith
 - A. From the Fleece on the Floor
 - B. To Faith for the Fight
 - C. To Face the Enemy Outside
- III. Fixing Faith Higher
 - A. The Danger of Misplaced Faith
 - B. Building Faith for the Battle
 - C. Faith Fixed Higher

... but so much more.

Children, Listen ...

1. What was Gideon like when God came to him?
2. What big change do we see in Gideon's life?
3. Why do you think God shrunk Gideon's army from 32,000 to 300?
4. What do we learn about where to rest our faith from the life of Gideon?

Growth through Shrinking

Gideon's growth in his faith was quite the process. Through the various ways it was affirmed and then grew the primary focus of his faith remained the same – trust in the Lord and in His might power, and not yourself. This is most vividly portrayed in God's deliberate shrinkage of Gideon's fighting men from 32,000 to 300! Talk about the opposite of the prosperity "gospel!" Gideon had to learn that any victory he would have over the enemies within and those from without would be to trust in the Lord's strength. He didn't need more men for the battle, he needed to trust the Lord. He needed to grasp his own smallness and rest in God's greatness. Gideon serves as a great example of how faith grows, but alas, the end of his life provides a sad example of how faith can be misplaced. This serves as a good reminder to us that our faith is to be fixed far higher than any earthly power or on any mighty man, but in the Lord God Almighty alone.