How Gideon became a strong person

**Experience increased strength**

**Monday**

Read 1 Kings 17, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Judges 7

* *When we don’t have enough [fill in the blank] to make it, God’s strength comes through.* ***Meditate*** *on what you are missing, but more importantly what God’s power and strength can do.*

**Tuesday**

Read Numbers 11

* *Surround yourself by people who are faithful and committed to the Lord.* ***Journalize*** *who those key people are.*

**Wednesday**

Read 1 John 4:4, James 2:19, 1 John 5:4, James 4:7

* *Your enemy is scared of you, because of who is inside of you. Spend timing* ***praying*** *today asking God to give you supernatural confidence.*

**Thursday**

Read 1 Timothy 3

* *Do you feel like you fall short of the qualifications of a spiritual leader? Don’t worry, we all do. God is calling you to spiritual leadership anyway.* ***Journalize*** *what you think God wants to work on in your life.*

**Friday**

Read Judges 6-7

* *Reread the story of Gideon and* ***journalize*** *the lessons you have learned regarding becoming a stronger person.*

How Gideon became a strong person - part 4

Judges 7

**7**Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. **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.’

God’s strength comes to you when there isn’t enough of you

Examples:

* Only when there were 2 fish and four loaves were 5000 men (plus women and children) fed
* Only when there was a life threatening storm did Peter walked on water
* Only when there was a famine did the widow’s flour and oil not run out
* Only when Paul was ship wrecked was he saved from a poisonous snake bite

2 Corinthians 12:9 New International Version (NIV)

**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.

Hurry up and get to the end of yourself so God’s strength can come rushing in

**3**Now announce to the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.’” So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

**4**But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.”

**5**So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” **6**Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. **7**The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.” **8**So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

(If God is thinning out your resources, get ready to receive his strength!)

Take inventory…what are you missing? Now start looking to God for strength!

If you want to be strong, surround yourself with God’s committed core of people

1. Gideon dismissed those who were fearful

You can’t be strong if those you are close to are driven by fear.

Get around people who are courageous, full of faith, confident in God!

2. Gideon dismissed those who didn’t have a spirit of nobility.

It is time for you to surround yourself with those who have christian nobility, those who are sons and daughters of the Lord most high! Those who you associate with need to know their identity in Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 New International Version (NIV)

**9**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

This is what great men and women of the Bible did and the greatest example of Jesus himself.

* Gideon had his faithful 300
* Jesus had his 12 disciples
* David’s mighty men
* Moses had the 70 elders
* Elijah forgot about the 7,000 that God reserved for himself, who didn’t bow a knee to Baal

Surround yourself with faithful, committed, dedicated Christians and who will strengthen you!

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. **9**During that night the Lord said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands.

When you start approaching your difficulties in God’s strength, you immediately have the supreme advantage.

God and you are a majority against anything or anyone!

**10**If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah **11**and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp.” So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp.

When you start walking in God’s power you are going to notice a select few that stick really close to you. Take them with you so they will be inspired by the strength and power of God in you.

* Jesus has his inner three
* Jonathan had his armor bearer
* Moses had Joshua
* Naomi had Ruth
* David had Abishai
* Elijah had Elisha
* Paul had Timothy

You might overlooking who tends to tag along with you: your young child, an elderly neighbor, a neglected teenager…take with you on your spiritual journey.

If you are a strong Christian, look to see who is with you and teach those who hang close to you to be strong as well.

Remember: you are not the only one to be strengthened but also those who are closely following you

**12**The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.

**13**Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.”

**14**His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.”

**15**When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, “Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands.”

Your enemy is scared of you

1 John 4:4 New International Version (NIV)

**4**You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

James 2:19 New International Version (NIV)

**19**You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

1 John 5:4 New International Version (NIV)

**4**for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

James 4:7 New International Version (NIV)

**7**Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**16**Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

**17**“Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. **18**When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon.’”

God is making a spiritual leader out of you

Where was the weak Gideon of only a few days before?

[Hebrews 11:34](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11:34&version=NIV)

whose weakness was turned to strength;

It’s time for you to start taking charge..

Of your situation

Of your marriage

Of your family

Of your time

Of your money

Of your feelings and emotions

2 Timothy 1:7 21st Century King James Version (KJ21)

**7**For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

**19**Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. **20**The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!”

Spiritually strong men and women do not use conventional weapons

Take up your Bible that is the sword of the Spirit

Pray to God in the Spirit

Declare the Word of God over you situation

Believe God’s promises!

**21**While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

Don’t back down in battle. Stand by the convictions God has given you

**22**When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the Lord caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath. **23**Israelites from Naphtali, Asher and all Manasseh were called out, and they pursued the Midianites. **24**Gideon sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim, saying, “Come down against the Midianites and seize the waters of the Jordan ahead of them as far as Beth Barah.”

So all the men of Ephraim were called out and they seized the waters of the Jordan as far as Beth Barah. **25**They also captured two of the Midianite leaders, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued the Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was by the Jordan.