

CITYWEST CHURCH

01.02.2026 - 10 AM

GO IN THIS MIGHT OF YOURS.

7 When they cried out to the LORD because of Midian, **8** the LORD sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. **9** I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. **10** I told you, ‘I am the LORD your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you now live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

11 Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. **12** The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!”

13 “Sir,” Gideon replied, “if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The LORD brought us up out of Egypt’? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites.”

14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!”

15 “But Lord,” Gideon replied, “how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!”

16 The LORD said to him, “I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.”

Judges 6:7-16 (NLT)

The book of Judges sheds light on the nature of people and the kindness of God, but it serves as a warning to us all that the blessing of God should not be claimed as our own doing, and should not be rested upon; our relationship with the giver should not be damaged because of the gift.

Judges details the cycle of rest>rebellion>retribution>repentance>restoration

Judges also gives us many Bible heroes we all know by name, but they were not perfect; they were very flawed, but God's strength was made perfect in their weakness.

In some ways, this message is a bit of a continuation of last week, forming the rhythms that reflect the throne of God in our lives daily, not just in our church moments.

This week highlights the focus on God's strength at work in our lives.

Now, as we turn our attention to Gideon and to what can be a confusing verse in the Bible, God turns to Gideon and says go in this strength or might of yours. You can ask the question: "Don't we do things in God's strength?" Don't we trust in God's strength?"

And what is God seeing that we are not? Gideon is hiding; he doesn't see himself as strong in any way.

Why Gideon is in hiding is that Israel is being absolutely terrorised by the Midianites; they are not occupying, but they are pillaging. Israel would grow crops, do all the hard work, for the Midianites to come up at harvest time and steal all their crops.

Segway, this is a picture of toiling in your own strength, you do all the work and get none of the harvest.

Which is why Gideon is hiding to thresh wheat in an wine press. Wine presses are basement-like and a horrible setting for threshing wheat, normally done on a hilltop with a breeze, as it would blow the chaff away.

Which is where the encounter of our passage takes place, and what God says to Gideon has truth to our lives today.

Lets unpack that now:

1. GOD NAMES STRENGTH BEFORE WE FEEL IT.

Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. **12** The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!”

Judges 6:11-12 (NLT)

Gideon is hiding. Threshing wheat in a winepress. Afraid. Doubting. Yet God speaks identity before ability.

God does not describe Gideon's circumstances — He declares Gideon's calling.

God often speaks to who we are becoming, not what we are currently experiencing.

Gideon sees weakness. God sees courage forming.

- *Stop waiting to feel brave before obeying.
Start believing that God may already be calling out something in you that hasn't fully emerged yet.*
- *Ask: What has God already named in me that fear has been silencing?*

That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

Romans 4:17 (NLT)

God still calls out faith, courage, and obedience before they are visible.

2. THE MIGHT IS GOD'S PRESENCE (NOT GIDEON'S CONFIDENCE)

Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"

15 "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

16 The LORD said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

Judges 6:14-16 (NLT)

The "might" is not military skill. Not leadership experience. Not self-belief.

The might is God's presence and God's sending.

God doesn't say, "Go when you're stronger."

He says, "Go because I am with you."

Confidence grows after obedience, not before it.

- *Stop disqualifying yourself because you feel underqualified.*
- *Step forward trusting God's presence rather than your preparedness.*
- *Obedience often unlocks clarity, strength, and faith along the way.*

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. **9** Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (NLT)

The kingdom advances not through self-sufficiency but God-dependence.

3. GOD CALLS US OUT OF HIDING AND INTO TRUST.

Judges 7 goes on to detail the dwindling of the fighting men Gideon gathers to when it comes down to just 300 men.

Remember, the Midianites had been terrorising Israel

Gideon obeys, trembling, but obeys. And God deliberately reduces the army so Gideon knows the victory belongs to the Lord.

God strips away Gideon's safety nets so faith, not numbers, defines the outcome.

God doesn't just want victory — He wants trust.

The journey from fear to faith is often slow, but obedience keeps moving forward.

- *Identify where you may be hiding instead of trusting.*
- *Take the next faithful step even if fear is still present.*
- *Trust that God is more concerned with your formation than your comfort.*

How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. **33** By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, **34** quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.

Hebrews 11:32-34 (NLT)

*Faith doesn't eliminate weakness — it **redeems it**.*

Gideon's story reminds us:

- *God speaks identity before transformation*
God's presence is our power
- *Obedience, even trembling obedience, matters*

You may feel small. Unready. Uncertain. But if God is with you and God has sent you, that is already enough might.

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. ***And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.***

Matthew 28:20 (NLT)

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

1. God names Gideon a “mighty hero” while he’s hiding.

Where do you see a gap between how you currently see yourself and what God might be calling out in you right now? What fears or circumstances have been silencing that calling?

2. God tells Gideon, “Go in the strength you have,” and then promises, “I will be with you.”

What does it look like for you to rely on *God’s presence* rather than your confidence or preparedness in this season? Where might obedience need to come before clarity?

3. Gideon moves from hiding to trusting, even while still afraid.

Is there an area of your life where you feel like you’re threshing wheat in a winepress—working hard but seeing little fruit? What might one small, faithful step of trust look like this week?