

Between Overwhelmed & With GOD'S SPIRIT

Judges 6:25-40

Gideon

From Gideon Overwhelmed (& hiding & raising questions)

Judges 6:11 Then the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites.

To Gideon Under God (& God's conversation & grace)

Judges 6:12 The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior." ... 16 But the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man." ... 23 The Lord said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and named it The Lord is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Practical Application

Let living under God,
in a trusting relationship with the living, loving King,
overshadow your feeling of being overwhelmed.

What are the benefits of being under GOD?
Our identity, security & purpose are in HIM!

The major/cyclical judge cycle (introduced in 2:6-3:6) is composed of the following basic components.

1. Israel does evil in the eyes of Yahweh.
2. Yahweh gives/sells them into the hands of oppressors.
3. Israel serves the oppressor for **x** years.
4. Israel cries out to Yahweh.
5. Yahweh raises up a deliverer (i.e. judge)
6. **The Spirit of Yahweh is upon the deliverer.**
7. The oppressor is subdued (reversal of component 2).
8. The land has “rest” for **x** years.

A Giant Step of Progress and Some Backup as Well

Judges 6:25 Now on the same night the Lord said to him, Take your father's bull and a second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal which belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it; 26 and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of this stronghold in an orderly manner, and take a second bull and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you shall cut down." 27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had spoken to him; and because he was too afraid of his father's household and the men of the city to do it by day, he did it by night.

A Giant Step of Progress and Some Backlash as Well

Judges 6:28 When the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was torn down, and the Asherah which was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar which had been built. 29 They said to one another, “Who did this thing?” And when they searched about and inquired, they said, “Gideon the son of Joash did this thing.” 30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, “Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has torn down the altar of Baal, and indeed, he has cut down the Asherah which was beside it.”

A Giant Step of Progress and Some Backlash as Well

Judges 6:31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, “Will you contend for Baal, or will you deliver him? Whoever will plead for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because someone has torn down his altar.” 32 Therefore on that day he named him Jerubbaal, that is to say, “Let Baal contend against him,” because he had torn down his altar.

To With God's Spirit

Judges 6:33 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 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.

Backup and Grace

Judges 6:36 Then Gideon said to God, “If You will deliver Israel 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 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.

Backup Again and Grace Again

Judges 6:39 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.

Practical Application

Let living with God's Spirit in you,
as you trust the living, loving King,
overpower your feeling of being overwhelmed.

What are the benefits of being with GOD'S SPIRIT?

He is present with us always & power is available in HIM!