

God Uses Ordinary People!

KJV 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

I like how The New Jerusalem Bible reads these passages—listen:

NJB 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 Consider, brothers, how you were called; not many of you are wise by human standards, not many influential, not many from noble families.

27 No, God chose those who by human standards are fools to shame the wise; he chose those who by human standards are weak to shame the strong,

28 those who by human standards are common and contemptible -- indeed those who count for nothing -- to reduce to nothing all those that do count for something,

29 so that no human being might feel boastful before God.

I preached a message years ago titled “**God Loves an Underdog.**”

God loves to use people who in themselves are weak, or sickly, those voted the least likely to succeed by their High School Class.

God chooses these kinds of people and uses them mightily because they are **most likely to volunteer & cooperate with Him!**

Take Gideon!

ESV Judges 6:11 Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites.

12 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."

The reason Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress speaks to the fact that Gideon was afraid of the Midianites and was hiding while working.

The second reason Gideon is using a wine press is the smallness of his harvest, usually wheat is pressed out in a large open area with oxen and a large wheel.

But his harvest was so small he could press it out with his own hands!

These two passages speak to Gideon's smallness of courage and smallness of resources.

13 And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."

This verse speaks to Gideon's smallness of faith!

➤ **The truth is we don't need Big faith to do Big Things for God!**

Jesus said in **Matt 17:20**... *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can we can move mountains."*

➤ **But we must be willing to use the faith we have!**

The LORD told Gideon to **go in the strength he has—whatever you see in yourself is enough to accomplish God's will.**

Why? **God rarely chooses the strong, the powerful or the influential!**

God chose Gideon because God would get the glory!

Everyone knew Gideon wasn't qualified to do the things he did so it had to be God that was with him!

***Judges 6:14** The LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have and save Israel from the power of Midian. It is I who send you."*

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

16 But the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man."

So Gideon moves out with his small courage, small resources and small faith and God does wonders through him!

God said He was with Gideon to deliver Israel!

God never said He was with Israel as a nation, He said He was with Gideon! There is a difference.

First in verse 12 *“The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.”*

Again in verse 16 *“Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man.”*

God never said He was with Israel, the fact is God had turned His face from Israel—they had lost His presence and His favor but not His love.

God had come to Gideon (his name means “*hewer*”) **one who cuts down with blows from a heavy instrument**)

God was going to use Gideon to cut down what was oppressing God’s people—but it wasn’t going to be with one blow, it was going to take **several blows.**

Sometimes we have to face an enemy several times before we get the complete victory!

Gideon was a **hewer!** **Hewers** were people who cut trees, carved wood, stones and drew water.

It was hard dirty work that was usually delegated to foreigners and slaves.

It takes a great deal of strength and stamina to be a hewer!

Remember “Some devils you cast out, others you last out.”

It takes Holy Ghost strength and stamina to **outlast some enemies!**

Hewers have the strength and stamina to continue fighting while **exhausted!**

God chose Gideon because He knew Gideon would never quit, he would never give up, and he would fight to the end even while exhausted.

NIV Judges 8:4 Gideon and his three hundred men, exhausted yet keeping up the pursuit, came to the Jordan and crossed it.