

Hebrews 11

GIDEON

A.K.A. JERUBBAAL

Hebrews 11:32a

Introduction

Hebrews 11 does not mention much detail concerning Gideon specifically but does group him with others of Old and groups the victories and outcomes that faith brought every one

of them to. Though all that were mention did not necessarily experience everything that was listed in the concluding of Hebrews chapter 11, the idea is that faith can lead you into circumstances you may have never considered, but faith will always see you to the end.

Though prior to Gideon there is reference in the Scriptures to “mighty men of valour,” he is the first that individually has a direct reference as a “mighty man of valour.” As a man of God once said, “Mighty men of God don’t generally see that they are mighty men; neither do they parade or boasts themselves to be.” We see this to be the case in Gideon’s life when he was exhorted to go in his might, he saw no might of his own that could ever possibly carry out such a task. Friends, this kind of view of oneself is view that

God would have all of His children to manifest in order to recognise the He is our all sufficiency. He truly is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Let us go on to glean how faith is manifested through the life and account of Gideon and seek to draw biblical principles and practical applications to assist in our own personal walk of faith.

Born:	➤ <i>Unknown.</i>
Gideon’s account is Found:	➤ Judges 6-8
Other Places the account of Gideon is Mentioned:	➤ Psalm 83:9-12; ➤ Hebrews 11:32
Some points of character:	➤ Mighty Man of Valour (Jug 6:12) ➤ Diligent (Judg 6:11) Wise (Judg 6:11,27) Careful (Judg 6:36-40) Obedient (Judg 6:20, 27) Peace-Maker (Judg 8:1-3) Loyal (Judg 8:23)
Death	➤ <i>Unknown BC</i> Judges 8:32
Key Verses	➤ Judges 6:1; 8:23

OUTLINE SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE ACCOUNT OF GIDEON

Judges 6:

- 1** Israel is delivered up to the hands of the Midianites
- 2-6** Midianites prevailed against Israel.
- 7** Israel cried out to God
- 8-10** The Lord sends a prophet to rebuke Israel
- 11** The angel of the LORD appears to Gideon
- 12** Gideon is called a mighty man of valour
- 13-23** The calls Gideon to deliver His people
- 24** Gideon build an altar to the LORD and calls it Jehovah-shalom
- 25-31** Gideon tears down the altar of Baal and the grove beside it.
- 32** Gideon gets called Jerubbaal
- 33** Midiantes and Amalekites prepare to war against Israel
- 34-35** Gideon gathers 32,000 men for war
- 36-38** Gideon puts out his fleece
- 39-40** Gideon puts out his fleece again

Judges 7:

- 1-6** The LORD sifts the 32,000 men down to 300 men
- 7-8** The LORD comforts Gideon again with a guaranteed victory to come
- 9-15** The LORD strengthens the hands of Gideon through a dream given to another
- 16-18** Gideon wisely implements his strategy and plan of attack
- 19-21** They execute the plan of attack and hold their ground
- 22** The LORD turns the Midianties against themselves
- 23-25** Israel finishes the job

Judges 8:

- 1-3** The tribe of Ephraim gets jealous
- 4-21** The final defeat of the Midianites
- 22** Israel wanted Gideon and his son to rule over them
- 23** Gideon reminds them that God alone is the One Who rules over His people
- 24-27** Gideon makes an ephod and put it in his city
- 28-31** Peace in the land for 40 years
- 32** Gideon dies

In this lesson concerning the faith of Gideon we will look at three things:

1. A **Wise Faith** – Judges 6 – *Gideon Confirmed the Lord's Call*
2. A **Willing Faith** – Judges 7 – *Gideon Carried out the Lord's Commands*
3. A **Winning Faith** – Judges 8 – *Gideon Conquered in the Lord's Cause*

Memory verse: (Judges 8:23) *And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.*

1. A **WISE FAITH**

I) **THE LORD'S COMFORTING CALL**

The LORD will not lead you where He will not keep you.

- a. The angel of the LORD confirmed the LORD's presence and support.
“**The LORD is with thee**, thou mighty man of valour”
(Judges 6:12)
- b. The LORD confirms His presence and support.
“And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: **have not I sent thee?**”
(Judges 6:14)
“And the LORD said unto him, **Surely I will be with thee**, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man,”
(Judges 6:16)

The LORD had come to Gideon and comforted Gideon, but it was not until the LORD consumed Gideon's offering where Gideon realised that it really was the LORD calling him to deliver Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Once the Lord had consumed the offering of Gideon and the angel of the LORD disappeared, Gideon then realised it was an angel of the LORD (Judges 6:22).

Upon Gideon's response, the LORD further comforted Gideon in Judges 6:23: (“And the LORD said unto him, Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.”) and in honour and to the LORD and for a remembrance of the LORD, Gideon built an alter and called it “Jehovahshalom” which means, the LORD is my peace. Gideon, being a brave yet fearful man, learnt here that the LORD God is his peace.

II) THE LORD'S COMMISSIONING TASK

A faith that is not tested cannot be trusted

a. The same night, the LORD wanted Gideon to go and destroy his father's alter of Baal and cut down the grove beside it. (Judges 6:25-26)

Jdg 6:25 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that *is* by it:

Jdg 6:26 And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

TRUE FAITH IS ALWAYS PROVEN

b. Gideon obeyed (Judges 6:27)

Jdg 6:27 Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did **as the LORD had said unto him**: and *so* it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do *it* by day, that he did *it* by night.

TRUE FAITH OBEYS WHAT THE LORD SAYS

c. Gideon was found out (Judges 6:28-30)

Jdg 6:28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that *was* by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar *that was* built.

Jdg 6:29 And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, **Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing**.

Jdg 6:30 Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that *was* by it.

TRUE FAITH CAN NEVER BE HIDDEN

d. Gideon was spared and given a new name (Judges 6:31-32)

Jdg 6:31 And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst *it is yet* morning: if he *be* a god, let him plead for himself, because *one* hath cast down his altar.

Jdg 6:32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

TRUE FAITH DRAWS OPPOSITION

e. Gideon prepares for war (Judges 6:31-32)

Jdg 6:33 Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

Jdg 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.

Jdg 6:35 And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh; who also was gathered after him: and he sent messengers unto Asher, and unto Zebulun, and unto Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

TRUE FAITH IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

NOTE: Although Gideon feared (Judges 6:27), he still obeyed.

Pro 3:25,27 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. (26)
For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

II) THE LORD CONFIRMS HIS CALL

Although faith is obedience beyond reason, it is never without confirmation

a. Gideon throws out his fleece and makes a specific request (Judges 6:36-38)

Jdg 6:36 And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said,

Jdg 6:37 Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; *and* if the dew be on the fleece only, and *it be* dry upon all the earth *beside*, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

Jdg 6:38 And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water.

b. Gideon throws out his fleece a second time with a specific request (Judges 6:36-38)

Jdg 6:39 And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew.

Jdg 6:40 And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

Conclusion: GIDEON CONFIRMED THE LORD'S CALL

Application: FAITH CONFIRMS THE LORD'S CALL

2. A WILLING FAITH

I) THE LORD SIFTS THROUGH TESTING

Works of faith are always done God's way

a. The LORD knows what's in the heart of man

Jdg 7:2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that *are* with thee *are* too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, **lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.**

b. The LORD sifts by establishing a specific requirement

Jdg 7:3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, **Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead.** And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

c. The LORD sifts by observing attitudes in behaviour through circumstances

Jdg 7:4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people *are* yet *too* many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, *that* of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

Jdg 7:5 So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

Jdg 7:6 And the number of them that lapped, *putting* their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

II) THE LORD STRENGTHENS GIDEON

God continually encourages His children that live by faith

a. The LORD reassures Gideon of His promise

Jdg 7:7 And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the *other* people go every man unto his place.

b. The LORD strengthens Gideon's hands

Jdg 7:9 And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

Jdg 7:10 But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:

Jdg 7:11 And thou shalt hear what they say; and **afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host**. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that *were* in the host.

Jdg 7:12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels *were* without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

Jdg 7:13 And when Gideon was come, behold, *there was* a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

Jdg 7:14 And his fellow answered and said, This *is* nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: *for* into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

c. Gideon is encouraged and gets on with it

Jdg 7:15 And it was *so*, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, **Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.**

d. Gideon wisely implements a strategic battle plan

Jdg 7:16 And he divided the three hundred men *into* three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

Jdg 7:17 And he said unto them, **Look on me**, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be *that*, as I do, so shall ye do.

Jdg 7:18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that *are* with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, *The sword* of the LORD, and of Gideon.

Conclusion: **GIDEON CARRIED OUT THE LORD'S COMMANDS**

Application: **FAITH CARRIES OUT THE LORD'S COMMANDS**

3. A WINNING FAITH

GIDEON DEFEATS MIDIAN

Faith claims the promised victory

a. The LORD was in the fight

Jdg 7:19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that *were* with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that *were* in their hands.

Jdg 7:20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow *withal*: and they cried, **The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.**

Jdg 7:21 And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

Jdg 7:22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, **and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow**, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, *and* to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

FAITH LEAVES THE FIGHT IN THE LORD'S HANDS

b. Gideon pursued those who got away

Jdg 8:4 And Gideon came to Jordan, *and* passed over, he, and the three hundred men that *were* with him, faint, yet pursuing *them*.

FAITH FINISHES THE COURSE

c. Gideon was mocked for his pursuit in faith yet not shaken

Jdg 8:5 And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they *be* faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

Jdg 8:6 And the princes of Succoth said, *Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?

Jdg 8:7 And Gideon said, Therefore **when the LORD hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand**, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briars.

Jdg 8:8 And he went up thence to Penuel, and spake unto them likewise: and the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered *him*.

Jdg 8:9 And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, **When I come again in peace**, I will break down this tower.

Jdg 8:10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna *were* in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand *men*, all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there fell an hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword.

Jdg 8:11 And Gideon went up by the way of them that dwelt in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and smote the host: for the host was secure.

Jdg 8:12 And when Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued after them, and took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited all the host.

Jdg 8:13 **And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun was up,**

Jdg 8:14 And caught a young man of the men of Succoth, and enquired of him: and he described unto him the princes of Succoth, and the elders thereof, *even* threescore and seventeen men.

Jdg 8:15 And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, *Are* the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men *that are* weary?

Jdg 8:16 And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.

Jdg 8:17 And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.

YOU WILL BE MOCKED FOR YOUR LIFE OF FAITH

c. Gideon won the victory

Jdg 8:28 Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

Conclusion: GIDEON CONQUERED IN THE LORD'S CAUSE

Application: FAITH CONQUERS IN THE LORD'S CAUSE

SUMMARY

1. A **WISE FAITH**

Conclusion: **GIDEON CONFIRMED THE LORD'S CALL**

Application: **FAITH CONFIRMS THE LORD'S CALL**

FAITH IS NOT FLIPPANT

2. A **WILLING FAITH**

Conclusion: **GIDEON CARRIED OUT THE LORD'S COMMANDS**

Application: **FAITH CARRIES OUT THE LORD'S COMMANDS**

FAITH ALWAYS OBEYS

3. A **WINNING FAITH**

Conclusion: **GIDEON CONQUERED IN THE LORD'S CAUSE**

Application: **FAITH CONQUERS IN THE LORD'S CAUSE**

FAITH IS THE VICTORY

ACCORDING TO THE RECORD OF GIDEON'S ACCOUNT AND
COMMENDATION OF FAITH:

**FAITH IS NOT FLIPPANT
FAITH ALWAYS OBEYS
FAITH IS THE VICTORY**