

Call: 2 Samuel 22:26

Text: Judges 6-7

Title: "How To Win Without Losing It All"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 22:27

Next Week's Text: Acts 6:1-7

Next Week's Title: "The Calling of a Deacon"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 22:28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 47-49, 50-51

Future Titles: "The Qualifications of a Deacon" (1 Timothy 3:8-13), "Love" (Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a), "Joy" (Galatians 5:22-23)

Fallen Condition Focus:

Christ redeeming FCF:

Central Truth:

Summary: Gideon started out weak and dependent on God for strength. But when God gave success and strength, he turned away from God. How can we remain dependent on God even in times of joy and plenty and success when all seems to be going well?

Reflective Questions:

1. An idol is something that we deem most important in our life so we give up all else to have it. What are some idols in your life that might make you forget God at times?
2. In what ways have you felt like you have needed to "test" God to see if he is with you? What do we have today that Gideon did not have that means we don't have to test God to know if He is with us? How does that help you?
3. When God finally helps you overcome your weakness, and gives you the victory or success you have been asking him for, what will you do? Will you stop praying and seeking God when things are going well and you are winning? What will keep you from going back to your idols when you are strong?
4. How do you respond to God and others when you feel weak and afraid?
5. How do you respond to God and others when you are strong and victorious?
6. How do we know God showed Gideon grace despite his failures? Do you think He will do the same for you?

- I. Introduction
- II. At the root of all of our fear and wandering away from God is idolatry.
- III. God comes near to us not just when we are strong but even in the midst of our sin and weakness. Failure and weakness put us in a posture of dependence like victory and strength cannot.
- IV. God sees the strength in Gideon even when Gideon can't see it.
- V. God has to get Gideon to admit his weakness first before he can work, and Gideon must trust God in order to allow God to work.
- VI. Obedience to God is always a mixture of fear and faith. A mixture of our weakness and God's strength.
- VII. We don't have to be strong to be used by God. We must be weak. God keeps making Gideon and his army weaker before He can use them!
- VIII. Gideon's God-given strength and success lead him back into a cycle of idolatry. How can we avoid this?
- IX. There is spiritual danger in the wounds and weaknesses we carry throughout our life. They can create idols of power and control rather than turning us to God in our weakness and our wounds. But there is also a very real spiritual danger in having blessing and success. We can carve success into our own image.
- X. God's grace is still upon us just like it was with Gideon even amid our epic failures. Gideon is still mentioned in the Hebrews Hall of Faith.