



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotionals:

In Sunday's message, we journeyed through the story of Gideon in Judges, focusing on how God often calls the most unlikely people to fulfill His purposes. Gideon, a man filled with fear and doubt, was hiding from the Midianites when God called him a "mighty man of valor." This reminds us that God doesn't look at our outward circumstances or our insecurities—He sees who we can become through His strength. Gideon's transformation from a fearful man into a bold leader happened step by step as he learned to trust God, starting with small acts of obedience. We were reminded that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. Just as Gideon overcame the Midianites not by his own power, but through God's presence and guidance, we too are called to step out in faith, trusting in God's ability to fight our battles. When we rely on Him, no obstacle is too great, and His grace will always be sufficient. Let us carry that truth with us this week, knowing that God's power works best in our weakness.

Monday: Courage in the Winepress

Scripture Reading:

"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. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.'" - Judges 6:11-12 (ESV)

Devotional:

Gideon was hiding in a winepress when God called him a "mighty man of valor." At first glance, this title seemed misplaced. Gideon wasn't acting like a warrior; he was crouched in fear, trying to survive. But God saw more in Gideon than he saw in himself. God wasn't speaking to the man Gideon was in that moment, but to the man he would become through God's power and presence. The Lord often calls us to greater things, even when we feel ill-equipped. Just like Gideon, God sees our potential in Him, not based on our own strength, but on His.

There are times in life when we, too, find ourselves "hiding in the winepress," consumed by fear or self-doubt. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by our challenges, much like Gideon was overwhelmed by the Midianites. Yet, God's message to us remains the same: He is with us. When God calls us to step into something greater, He provides the strength and courage we need. It's not about who we are right now but who He is shaping us to be through His power.

God's call to Gideon teaches us that courage isn't the absence of fear but stepping out in faith despite fear. The Lord didn't wait for Gideon to feel courageous before He called him; He called him while he was afraid. Similarly, God doesn't wait for us to feel ready. He meets us in our fear and equips us for what He has called us to do.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life are you "hiding in the winepress," feeling afraid or unsure?
2. How does knowing that God sees your potential encourage you to step out in faith?
3. What steps can you take this week to trust God's calling, even if you don't feel ready?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for calling me, even when I feel afraid or inadequate. Help me to trust that Your presence is with me, and give me the courage to step out in faith. Like Gideon, may I learn to see myself as You see me—not in my own strength, but in Yours. Amen.

Tuesday: Doubts and Questions

Scripture Reading:

"And Gideon said to him, 'Please, my lord, 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?'" - Judges 6:13 (ESV)

Devotional:

Gideon's initial response to God's call was full of questions and doubt. He couldn't reconcile God's presence with the suffering Israel was experiencing. We often find ourselves in similar situations. When life gets hard, we ask, "If God is with me, why is this happening?" Like Gideon, we struggle to see God's plan when the present circumstances seem so bleak. Doubts are a normal part of faith, and God is not afraid of our questions. He meets us in our uncertainty, offering grace and reassurance.

What's comforting about this part of Gideon's story is that God doesn't rebuke him for questioning. Instead, God gently reminds him of His presence. He reassures Gideon that His plan is still unfolding and that He will bring deliverance. Our questions don't disqualify us from God's plan. In fact, they can lead us to a deeper reliance on Him. Just as God was patient with Gideon, He is patient with us. Our doubts can become opportunities for God to reveal His power in unexpected ways.

When we face moments of uncertainty, we can bring our fears and questions to God. He invites us to be honest with Him. Like Gideon, we may not understand why we're going through difficulties, but we can trust that God is at work in the midst of them. His promise remains: "I will be with you."

Reflection Questions:

1. What questions or doubts have you been wrestling with in your faith journey?
2. How does Gideon's story encourage you to bring your doubts to God?
3. How can you remind yourself of God's promises, even when you don't see immediate answers?

Prayer:

Lord, I bring my doubts and questions to You. Help me to trust that even when I don't understand, You are working for my good. Strengthen my faith, and remind me that Your presence is with me in every situation. Amen.

Wednesday: Small Steps of Obedience

Scripture Reading:

"So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night." - Judges 6:27 (ESV)

Devotional:

Gideon's first assignment from God wasn't to lead an army but to tear down the altar to Baal in his own backyard. Though afraid, Gideon obeyed. He acted under the cover of night, but he still took the step of obedience. Sometimes, our acts of faith start small. God asks us to obey Him in the hidden, private areas of our lives before calling us to bigger tasks. These small steps matter. They prepare us for the larger things God has in store.

Obedience isn't about feeling bold all the time; it's about trusting God enough to act, even when we're scared. Like Gideon, we may feel fear, but that doesn't mean we can't obey. Every step we take in faith, no matter how small, strengthens our trust in God. Jesus taught that those who are faithful in little will be faithful in much. Our private battles of obedience are often the foundation for public victories.

As we take these small steps of faith, we may not see immediate results, but God is working in and through us. Just as Gideon's act of tearing down the altar led to greater things, our faithfulness in the small things paves the way for what God has planned for us in the future.

Reflection Questions:

1. What small steps of obedience is God calling you to take right now?
2. How can you act in faith, even if you feel afraid?
3. How might your obedience in the little things prepare you for something bigger?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be faithful in the small things. Even when I feel afraid, give me the courage to obey You. I trust that as I take these steps, You are preparing me for greater things. Strengthen my faith, and remind me that You are with me in every act of obedience. Amen.

Thursday: God's Patience with Our Doubts

Scripture Reading:

"Then Gideon said to God, 'Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece... And God did so that night.'" - Judges 6:39-40 (ESV)

Devotional:

Even after God reassured Gideon multiple times, he still asked for more signs. His faith was growing, but he needed further confirmation. What's remarkable is God's patience with him. He didn't get angry or withdraw His call. Instead, God met Gideon in his uncertainty and graciously provided the signs Gideon needed. This shows us that God understands our doubts and weaknesses. He is patient with us as we learn to trust Him more fully.

We may feel hesitant to ask God for reassurance, thinking it shows a lack of faith. But Gideon's story teaches us that it's okay to bring our fears to God. He knows our hearts and is willing to meet us where we are. While we shouldn't continually "test" God, there are moments when we

need His encouragement, and He is gracious to give it. Our relationship with God is not about having perfect faith, but about walking with Him and growing in trust.

If you're in a season of doubt, don't be afraid to ask God for reassurance. He is not offended by your need for confirmation. Instead, He invites you to bring your concerns to Him. God is a patient teacher, and He will provide the encouragement you need to continue walking in faith.

Reflection Questions:

1. When have you needed reassurance from God? How did He provide it?
2. How can you trust God's patience with you as you grow in faith?
3. What does it mean to rely on God's grace when you feel uncertain?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for being patient with me when I struggle with doubt. Help me to trust in Your faithfulness, even when I need reassurance. Thank You for Your grace and for meeting me where I am. Strengthen my faith as I continue to walk with You. Amen.

Friday: God's Strength in Our Weakness

Scripture Reading:

"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." - 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

Devotional:

When Gideon faced the Midianites, God reduced his army from 32,000 to just 300. This wasn't because God wanted to make things harder for Gideon, but because He wanted Israel to know that victory came from Him, not their own strength. Similarly, God works through our weakness to display His power. When we feel inadequate or overwhelmed, it's an opportunity for God's strength to be revealed in our lives.

In a culture that prizes self-sufficiency, it can be hard to embrace weakness. But God's kingdom operates differently. He uses our limitations to demonstrate His glory. When we acknowledge that we are not enough on our own, we open the door for God to work powerfully through us. Like Gideon's army, we don't need large numbers or impressive resources to achieve God's purposes—what we need is to trust in His sufficiency.

In moments when you feel like you don't have enough—enough strength, enough faith, enough resources—remember that God's grace is sufficient. His power is made perfect in our weakness. As you surrender your limitations to Him, watch how He works in ways that you never could on your own.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where do you feel weak or inadequate in your life right now?
2. How can you invite God's strength to work through your weakness?
3. What does it look like to rely on God's grace instead of your own abilities?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You that Your grace is sufficient for me. I offer You my weaknesses, knowing that Your power is made perfect in them. Help me to trust that You will work through me, even when I feel inadequate. May Your strength be on display in my life. Amen.

Saturday: Victory Belongs to the Lord

Scripture Reading:

"Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, 'A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!...' The Lord set every man's sword against his comrade and against all the army." Judges 7:20-22 (ESV)

Devotional:

Gideon's 300 men defeated the Midianites without lifting a sword. Armed only with trumpets, jars, and torches, they witnessed the Lord create confusion in the enemy camp, causing the Midianites to turn on each other. This was a clear reminder that the victory belonged to God, not Gideon's strength or strategy. The battle wasn't won by human effort but by divine intervention. This truth is the same for us today—our battles belong to the Lord.

When we face challenges that seem insurmountable, we are often tempted to rely on our own strength. But just like Gideon, we need to remember that victory comes from the Lord. It's His power, not ours, that overcomes the obstacles in our lives. Our role is to step out in faith and obedience, trusting that God will fight for us. Whether it's a battle of the mind, heart, or circumstances, the Lord is with us, and He is more than able to bring victory.

We serve a God who turns the impossible into the possible. No matter what challenges you're facing, take heart in knowing that the Lord is on your side. The victory always has and always will belong to Him.

Reflection Questions:

1. What battles are you currently facing that feel overwhelming?
2. How does knowing that God fights for you change your perspective on those challenges?
3. How can you trust in God's victory rather than relying on your own strength?

Prayer:

God of victory, I surrender my battles to You. I trust that You are fighting for me, and that the victory belongs to You. Help me to walk in faith and obedience, knowing that Your power is greater than any obstacle I face. Thank You for being with me and for Your promise of deliverance. Amen.