

When Your Least is More Than Enough

"(v.32) I could go on and on, but I've run out of time. There are so many more—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets . . . (v.33) Through *acts of faith*, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves. They were protected from lions, fires, and sword thrusts, turned disadvantage to advantage, won battles, routed alien armies."—**Hebrews 11:32-34**
(The Message)

Gideon:

"(v.14) But *GOD* faced him directly: 'Go in this strength that is yours. Save Israel from Midian. Haven't I just sent you?'

(v.15) Gideon said to him, 'Me, my master? How and with what could I ever save Israel? Look at me. My clan's the weakest in Manasseh and I'm the runt (least) of the litter.'

(v.16) *GOD* said to him, 'I'll be with you. Believe me, you'll defeat Midian as one man.'

(v.17) Gideon said, 'If you're serious about this, do me a favor: Give me a sign to back up what you're telling me. (v.18) Don't leave until I come back and bring you my gift.' He said, 'I'll wait till you get back.'

(v.19) Gideon went and prepared a young goat and a huge amount of unraised bread (he used over half a bushel of flour!) He put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot and took them back under the shade of the oak tree for a sacred meal.

(v.20) The angel of *God* said to him, 'Take the meat and unraised bread, place them on that rock, and pour the broth on them.' Gideon did it.

(v.21) The angel of *GOD* stretched out the tip of the stick he was holding and touched the meat and the bread. Fire broke out of the rock and burned up the meat and bread while the angel of *God* slipped away out of sight. (v.22) And Gideon knew it was the angel of *God*! Gideon said, 'Oh no! Master, *GOD*! I have seen the angel of *God* face to face!'

(v.23) But *GOD* reassured him, 'Easy now. Don't panic. You won't die.'

(v.24) Then Gideon built an altar there to *GOD* and named it '*GOD's Peace*.' It's still called that at Ophrah of Abiezer."

Judges 6:14-24
The Message

FACT: Today, your part in this drama is played by a man whose name is Gideon. But, he is actually playing **your** part. You are center stage. The spotlight is on you.

HOW did you get the spotlight?

1-You are in trouble. (6:1-10)

2-Now, God calls you to do something about that trouble. (6:12)

3-You can't believe it! (v.15)

Now, you and Gideon are serious. You really believe God could do better with someone else. You have two reasons why you think so.

1-Your family is the weakest in the whole clan. (v.15a)

2-You are the least significant person in your entire family.(v.15b)

NOW, God surprises you! God says:

No problem! "Your least of all" quality doesn't bother me a bit.

You are still the one. (v.16)

So, you have this little "discussion" with God, just like Gideon did.

You ask God for proof ! You say . . . "Give me a sign.

Here is my gift, my best. Let's see what you do with it!" (v.17-18)

It's an electric moment,

a person before his/her God laying their best on the line.

It's an intimate and intense encounter.

The angel of God reaches out to touch the sacrifice—at once fire consumes all of it.

It is enough—Indeed, God had met him.

WHAT do we learn?

1-God does not wrestle our resources away from us!

In his giving, Gideon (and you) have shown your total availability to God.

2-PRINCIPLE = Not until we let go of what we own does it become God's to do with as He chooses.

3-Don't offer God junk !

God doesn't deal in junk. He deals with lives, with precious people, every one.

4-A purposeful partnership = Your willingness & His resources.