

Gideon: Growing Faith

Jesus spoke of people with no faith, little faith, and great faith. His disciples pleaded with Him to “increase our faith” (Lk. 17:5). I expect most of us would “amen” that prayer.

Gideon’s name appears in Heb. 11:32 among the great characters of faith. The record in Judges chapters six and seven shows that Gideon began with quite small faith, but grew into a courageous man of God with admirably strong faith. Could we do the same?

During Gideon’s time, Israel had lapsed into idolatry, so God allowed the Midianites to oppress them. We first encounter Gideon as he is hiding from the Midianites, hoping to keep them from confiscating the grain he is threshing. How pitiful!

At first Gideon resists God’s call to save Israel. But after seeing several signs (miraculous consumption of his sacrifice; wet fleece with dry ground; dry fleece with wet ground), he finally concludes that God will, indeed, give him victory over the Midianites.

Would you attack an innumerable host of enemy soldiers armed to the teeth, if you had only 300 unarmed men with you? Gideon did! He actually had 32,000 at the beginning (still a tiny number compared to the enemy), but the Lord told him all the ones who were afraid should go home. That decreased the number to 10,000. But even that was too many, for God wanted to make it obvious that Israel’s deliverance was from Him, not from Gideon or his men. In the end, Gideon had only 300 men, and their only “weapons” were pitchers and torches.

Think of the faith Gideon had as he launched his night time “attack”! If the Midianites didn’t fall for the ruse, Gideon and all of his men would be slaughtered! But Gideon confidently trusted in God’s promises, so he obeyed God’s instructions.

You and I will not be seeing miraculous signs as Gideon did. We have God’s inspired, complete, confirmed word to produce faith with us. Let us, like Gideon, grow in our faith so that we trust and obey unconditionally!

Song: “Standing On The Promises of God”

Prayer: Father in Heaven, we pray as the apostles did for increased faith. We are thankful for Your word that produces faith within us. Forgive us for our weakness, and help us grow. We pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.