

# MY NORMAL EVERYDAY LIFE – Part 2

## GIDEON

June 9, 2019

**OUR MISSION**...to see lives changed through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

### Judges 6:11-40 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup> The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!" <sup>13</sup> "Sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The LORD brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites." <sup>14</sup> Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" <sup>15</sup> "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

- God chooses to use you based on what He sees in you, not on what you see in yourself.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."

- What God leads you to, He will see you through.

<sup>36</sup> Then Gideon said to God, "If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised, <sup>37</sup> prove it to me in this way. I will put a wool fleece on the threshing floor tonight. If the fleece is wet with dew in the morning but the ground is dry, then I will know that you are going to help me rescue Israel as you promised." <sup>38</sup> And that is just what happened. When Gideon got up early the next morning, he squeezed the fleece and wrung out a whole bowlful of water. <sup>39</sup> Then Gideon said to God, "Please don't be angry with me, but let me make one more request. Let me use the fleece for one more test. This time let the fleece remain dry while the ground around it is wet with dew." <sup>40</sup> So that night God did as Gideon asked. The fleece was dry in the morning, but the ground was covered with dew.

- God grows your faith as you take the next step.

### Judges 7:1-22

<sup>1</sup> So Jerub-baal (that is, Gideon) and his army got up early and went as

far as the spring of Harod. The armies of Midian were camped north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, tell the people, 'Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.'" So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight. <sup>4</sup>But the LORD told Gideon, "There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not." <sup>5</sup>When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the LORD told him, "Divide the men into two groups. In one group put all those who cup water in their hands and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all those who kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream." <sup>6</sup>Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream. <sup>7</sup>The LORD told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."

- When your circumstances expose your inability, they reveal God's ability.

<sup>16</sup>He divided the 300 men into three groups and gave each man a ram's horn and a clay jar with a torch in it. <sup>17</sup>Then he said to them, "Keep your eyes on me. When I come to the edge of the camp, do just as I do. <sup>18</sup>As soon as I and those with me blow the rams' horns, blow your horns, too, all around the entire camp, and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon!'" <sup>19</sup>It was just after midnight, after the changing of the guard, when Gideon and the 100 men with him reached the edge of the Midianite camp. Suddenly, they blew the rams' horns and broke their clay jars. <sup>20</sup>Then all three groups blew their horns and broke their jars. They held the blazing torches in their left hands and the horns in their right hands, and they all shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" <sup>21</sup>Each man stood at his position around the camp and watched as all the Midianites rushed around in a panic, shouting as they ran to escape. <sup>22</sup>When the 300 Israelites blew their rams' horns, the LORD caused the warriors in the camp to fight against each other with their swords. Those who were not killed fled to places as far away..."

- Your greatest weapon to fight life's battles is trust.

### **Talk it Over**

1. Who was Gideon? How did he view himself?
2. How do you tend to view your own capabilities and giftings?
3. Read Judges 6:14. What is Gideon told to do? How does this relate to us?
4. Why do we get stuck on what we think we can do instead of trusting God's wisdom?

5. Action Point: What "next step" is God asking from you? What am I letting get in the way of taking it? Pray and ask God for the strength and courage to step out in faith.