2Thess #171

Hold your ground in an orderly fashion.

Next Thursday the 30th I will be taking off. I need to drop my lap top off for the yearly service and protection plan.

Also…I do apologize, because I am almost month behind where I wanted to be on the Titus book – but trust me, it is still in the works!

Go into the OT Royal Family – start in Judges chapter six.

Later we will get into Nehemiah. Probably by next message.

We will be bouncing around a lot in closing out this recent series. So, get your page turning fingers ready!

Today we will see the application of being prepared, becoming alert and available for GOD to use us.

This series was to emphasize the responsibility after salvation of getting your life in order – especially your spiritual growth.

Sometimes the Bel’s biggest enemy is their own motivation…truly their own OSN.

/2Thes 3:6 Now **we command you,** brothers *and sisters,* in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **you keep away** from every brother *or sister* **who leadsa disorderly life** and not *one* in accordance with the tradition which you received from us.

Those who refuse to grow after salvation or accept a counterfeit truth, will never fully understand the plan of God.\

This is why I want to spend sometime in closing this series out by giving examples and applications that any Bel can use.

This portion of Judges in chapter six is one of several cycles of Israel that was a low point.

They entered the promised land and never fully eradicated the land of the seeds of Satan. Nephilim were still scattered around the land and demonic leaders were still controlling certain regions.

/Israel entered the promised land around 1406 BC, the story of Gideon takes place over 250 years later during one of the down cycles of Israel. At this point, GOD had allowed the Amalekites and Midianites access to attack and dominate Israel. The majority of Israel had fallen in love with the idols of the land and this was a down cycle when they were being disciplined for their unfaithfulness.\

Many scholars believe this point of the era of judges was a turning point.

In the future portion of judges we see the warnings and discipline intensify.

By the way, the Amalekite culture were notoriously violent and there were traces of them in Babylonian culture and very early Egyptian culture. When I mention seeds of Satan - this is one tribe that may well have been related to the nomadic tribe of the Scythians.

The group seen in NT teaching by the Apostle Paul, that later occupied Kharazi, near the Ukraine & Kazakhstan regions close to Russia. A set of tablets found in ancient Egypt, called the Amarna Tablets is connected to this tribe – they fall under several titles or names, one being Khabbati (plunderers) – many consider this an early term for the word KABAL we hear today.

One of their most famous kings was written about in Numbers 24 & 1Samuel 15 his name was Agag.

These were individuals who were heavily influenced by demonic rituals.

Agag’s name is seen in very ancient Aramaic – it means to overthrow or to be a violent flame.

These Amalekites were later believed to be driven into isolation and scattered or all of them, possibly killed by King David.

Let’s put it this way - my personal study shows me they were not all killed – I would argue they regrouped with the help of their father Satan and managed to become what some call the first real mafia- the Kazarian Mafia.

Basically, the Midianites and Amalekites were a vicious tag team against Isreal at this historic point.

Jud 6:4 So they would camp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel, nor a sheep, ox, or donkey.

[Jdg 6:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/5/s_217005) For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, they would come in like locusts in number, *and both* they and their camels were innumerable; and they came into the land to ruin it.

This was a brutal cycle every season Isreal had any crops coming into harvest.

Being under self-induced misery, which eventually turns into divine discipline always has the same results.

/[Jdg 6:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/6/s_217006) So **Israel was brought very low because of Midian**, and the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD.

Within self-induced misery, as well as divine discipline, GOD often allows the protective wall of fire to diminish.\

God is a perfect gentlemen and when you push away from HIM…He respects your wishes.

Gideon’s own family were involved in idol worship.

It appears he was one of the few Israelites left who still kept seeking the one true GOD – YAHWEH.

Teaching us that - GOD hears us and sees us even in the midst of great apostasy and a comic system filled with evil.

Jump down a few verses;

Jud 6:11 Then the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save *it* from the Midianites.

This is the Preincarnate Christ.

Gideon under his family tree as an ABBY-ZEER-ITE is in the bloodline of Manasseh, a descendant of Joseph.

/[Jdg 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/12/s_217012) And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, **“The LORD is with you, valiant warrior.”**

Gideon is a simple farm-boy, yet in the eyes of the LORD he sees the warrior he will become. GOD has ordained great skills and divine integrity for all Bels, yet we have to be willing to grow in our faith, become positive in our spiritual momentum.\

Look at verse 16;

Jud 6:16 Yet the LORD said to him, “I will certainly be with you, and you will defeat Midian as one man.”

/[Jdg 6:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/17/s_217017) So Gideon said to Him, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, then **perform for me a sign that it is You speaking with me**.

Gideon is not confident, even though the Lord Jesus Christ (same one who walked in the garden and also stood before Joshua as supreme Commander), has appeared miraculously in front of him.\

God understands our faith wanes and sometimes our motivation is lacking. He is not waiting to punish the Christian who is struggling with their faith.

God does expect us to get off the fence at some point and get serious with our relationship with HIM.

 REPEAT

Its funny… Gideon is being called as a judge for Israel after Deborah had been in that same office.

Deborah had been called because the male population of Israel lost track of something in their pants!

Hesitate long enough and the opportunity may not be there any longer.

Never forget - it is a supreme honor to serve the Creator of the universe!

I believe at the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ – Bels will see all the opportunities they missed, what they could have done or how God was always trying to get there attention.

/Out of all the judges Gideon is given greater attention in scripture then almost all other judges. Gideon was young, weak in faith and had no desire for leadership. Yet YAHWEH elevated him into history beyond many other judges. The 7 years of discipline would end because of a young man, with nearly an insignificant amount of faith, in an insignificant pocket of land, just outside the Arabian desert.\

Stop thinking GOD will not use you and that your life is insignificant. God loves to use the underdog.

God loves to take the low and base things of this world and lift them up in HIS power – 1Cor 1:26-29 are some of my favorite scriptures, they fit me perfectly.

 REPEAT

The fact is we have to be available and we have to answer the call upon our life.

Now Gideon prepares a meal for the Lord and now we see one of the first tests of his faith.

Gideon would need re-assurance more than once.

Jud 6:20 And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay *them* on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so.

/This is all very symbolic of TLJC and HIS sacrifice. The ROCK is the power of the Deity of the SON of God – Jesus Christ. The meat and unleavened bread speak to the humanity of Christ – impeccable. Our Lord poured HIMSELF out as an offering for the sins for the world. The fire speaks to divine judgment.\

[Jdg 6:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/21/s_217021) Then the angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire came up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.

[Jdg 6:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/22/s_217022) When Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD, he said, “Oh, Lord GOD! For I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!”

Gideon has now been cleansed and called into action.

[Jdg 6:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/23/s_217023) But the LORD said to him, “Peace to you, do not be afraid; you shall not die.”

[Jdg 6:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/24/s_217024) Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it The LORD is Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

*Yᵊhōvâ šālôm-* One of the many names of our GOD.

Now comes the commands and beginning of the mission – this is the point you no longer can remain lackluster and sit on the fence collecting splinters!

Time to get your life in order, balanced and adjusted to the plan of GOD.

/[Jdg 6:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/25/s_217025) Now on the same night the LORD said to him, “**Take your father’s bull**and a **second bull seven years old**, and **tear down the altar of Baal** which belongs to your father, and **cut down the Asherah**that is beside it;

The bull was sacred and symbolic for BAAL worship. The 7 yr. old bull probably represented the 7 years of oppression coming to an end. The Bulls were used to destroy BAAL worship, not as a part of it.\

Now TLJC tells Gideon destroy the BAAL system in your family and then offer those bulls as a sacrifice to ME – the true GOD, not as a dedication to Satan.

/[Jdg 6:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/26/s_217026) and **build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of this stronghold in an orderly way** (*mah-ar-aw-kaw'*), and take a second bull and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah which you shall cut down.”

This is doing the right thing in the right way. To have a combat line prepared for battle, a line or row, organized in a military fashion.\

MAH-ARR-CAW, this was used in the ancient Israeli army as rank and file – an orderly row, a column. The Hebrew root word means to be prepared.

[Jdg 6:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/27/s_217027) Then Gideon took ten men from his servants and did as the LORD had spoken to him; and because he was too afraid of his father’s household and the men of the city to do it by day, he did it by night.

/Gideon is facing a majority backlash from his own community who worshipped false gods under the BAAL system, even within his own family. Yet he followed through with the call of GOD and did so with stealth and wisdom because the situation called for this! This could have been a violent incident and yet it was handled in a way that avoided that.\

Now when the people of the community wake up and see the damage to the false idols they are outraged.

The rumor spreads that it was Gideon and now his life is being threatened.

/Every action has a reaction and every decision has a consequence…positive or negative. This was the calling of GOD and that means you have to stand strong in the truth. Gideon followed through and then he had to be willing to stand in the consequence… and he did so, trusting in the plan of GOD.\

Jud 6:30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, “Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has torn down the altar of Baal, and indeed, he has cut down the Asherah which was beside it.”

This is a powerful example of bringing lost Bels back into the truth and back into their relationship with God.

/[Jdg 6:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/31/s_217031) But **Joash said** to all who stood against him, “**Will you contend for Baal, or will you save him?** Whoever will contend for him shall be put to death by morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, since *someone* has torn down his altar!”

This is Gideon’s father who was involved in Baal worship – he has turned back to the true GOD. Gideon’s action of compliance to the plan of GOD had an incredible ripple effect.\

Gideon followed the plan of GOD and he did so with caution yet precision.

Then we can see the consequence – which is now in the hands of the LORD.

[Jdg 6:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/32/s_217032) Therefore on that day he named Gideon Jerubbaal, that is to say, “Let Baal contend against him,” because he had torn down his altar.

Gideon has now begun to make history –

He is placing his relationship with LORD as a priority and he is following the WORD in an organized fashion.

It truly means…“*A man against whom Baal is to strive and contend*; a title of honor, a title denoting a life of GODLINESS.

[Jdg 6:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/33/s_217033) Then all the Midianites, the Amalekites, and the people of the east assembled together; and they crossed over and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

In God’s perfect timing the enemies of Israel were not far off, gathering together for an attack.

No coincidences inside the plan of God.

/[Jdg 6:34](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jdg/6/34/s_217034) **So the Spirit of the LORD covered Gideon like clothing**; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him.

God the HS came upon Gideon which empowered him, driving forward as the man of the hour, a leader with courage and integrity.\

The insecure farm-boy, with the faith of a mustard seed – living in the midst of satanic influence, is now the combat ready leader, of God’s chosen army.