

# Saying Yes to God

~Things That Hold Us Back~

4. Doubt

## Judges 6:1-10

The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years He gave them into the hands of the Midianites.

Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts.

Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites, and other eastern peoples invaded the country. They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys.

They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, He sent them a prophet, who said,

“This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

## Judges 6:11-13

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezerite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

**“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all His wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’**

**But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of the Midian.”**

## Judges 6:14-16

The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

“Pardon me, my Lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”



## Judges 6:36-38

Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised—look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.” And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew - a bowlful of water.

## Judges 6:39-40

Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be covered with dew.” That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

# Gideon asked for proof 3 times

1. When he asked God to stay as he prepared an offering to prove their conversation was real.
2. Testing that the fleece would be wet but the ground dry.
3. Testing that the ground would be wet and the fleece would be dry.

# 1. Doubt of self

- I'm not good enough.
- I can't do this.
- I can't handle this.

# Who does God say we are?

- We're His beloved children

1 John 3:1

- We're God's masterpiece

Ephesians 2:10

- We are chosen

Ephesians 1:4

**It's not about us.  
It's about the God who stands  
beside us.**

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

**Be strong and courageous. Do  
not be afraid or terrified because  
of them, for the Lord your God  
goes with you; He will never  
leave you nor forsake you.**

**Deuteronomy 33:25**  
**As your days are, so**  
**shall your strength**  
**be.**

2. Doubts that come  
from forgetting the  
goodness of God

Psalm 118:1

Give thanks to the Lord  
for His goodness and  
love that endure forever.



# **3. Doubts that arise from a distorted view of God**

If we want to trust God,  
we need to know Him.

Proverbs 8:17

I love those who love  
me, and those who seek  
me diligently will find  
me.

## 4. Doubts that arise in fear

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us  
a spirit of fear, but of  
power and of love and of  
a sound mind.

**5. Doubt that comes  
from disappointed  
hope**

# Micah 3:3

He will sit as a refiner  
and a purifier of  
silver; He will purify  
and refine them like  
gold and silver.

a. God never leaves us  
nor forsakes us.

b. When the refining is  
done, we'll be able to  
reflect the image of God  
more fully.

**Doubting yourself?  
Focus more on God!**

**Doubting the goodness of God?  
Spend time praising God and remembering  
what He has done!**

**Doubts because you have a distorted view of  
God?**

**Get to know God better!**

**Doubts from fear or broken hopes and dreams?  
Lean into God harder!**

