



## HEROES OF THE FAITH "Gideon" Judges 6:1-7:25

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The story of Gideon illustrates the fact that God calls unlikely people to serve Him and uses unusual methods to achieve His objectives. This way people are reminded that in the end it is God—not man—who is in charge and whose purposes are worked out.

### I. Gideon—Despondent. 6:1-13

- A. A forgotten history.
  1. They had been brought out of Egypt.
  2. They had seen their enemies overthrown.
  3. They had been given the land of promise.
  4. They had forgotten their obligations to the Lord.
- B. A desperate situation.
  1. Their spiritual lives were in ruins.
  2. Their land was in the hands of oppressors.
  3. Their livelihood had practically vanished.
  4. Their instinct was to call on the Lord for help.
- C. A significant encounter.
  1. Gideon is threshing wheat in a wine press.
  2. Gideon is skeptical of the Lord's presence.
  3. Gideon is questioning the Lord's actions.

### II. Gideon—Dependent. 6:14-32

- A. A surprising commission.
  1. "Go and save Israel"—in the strength you have!
  2. The strength I have is inadequate—give me a sign You are with me!
- B. A dramatic turn around.
  1. A reminder of the Lord's power and presence.
  2. A statement of confidence and commitment—Jehovah Shalom.
  3. A challenge to family and friends to take a stand.

### III. Gideon—Defiant. 6:33-7:25

- A. A clear call to arms by Spirit-empowered leadership.
- B. A repeated request for confirmation graciously granted.
- C. A strange strategy designed to make a profound point—too many men!
- D. A triumphant tactic intended to produce maximum results.
  1. Trumpet.
  2. Pitcher.
  3. Torch.
- E. A sobering sequel—today's victories can be tomorrow's defeats.