

Remnant Life Church
October 6, 2024
Winning the Spiritual Battles
Introduction
Judges 7:1-22

The account of Gideon in the 6th, 7th, and 8th chapters of the book of Judges presents several incredible examples of many aspects of the Christian walk

- From uncertainty to confidence
- From fear to bravery
- From faith and trust to idolatry
 - Each of them describes the very same struggles each of us encounter
 - And they also fully demonstrate God's love, patience, and righteousness

Over the next several weeks we are going to be examining what it means to win the spiritual battles of your life

- This is not necessarily a checklist of ABCs
- Rather an understanding of principles that lead to the right actions
- Gideon's actions, his failures, and his victories are an excellent guide for us to learn these essential principles

This morning, before we come to the communion table, will be an introduction to what I pray is going to become a blueprint of action for when you are faced with the battles of your life

Last week we looked at the fact that God gives us assurances of His presence.

- Gideon was called to lead the people of Israel against God's most recent tool of discipline, the Midianites and Amalekites.
- God then allowed Gideon to request confirmation of that assignment
- Laying out of the fleece twice
 - This was not a lack of faith
 - But a need to have his own self-doubts addressed
 - He knew the enormity of what He was about to face
 - He did not want to go on without the full assurance of God's presence

As we set the stage for how Gideon would proceed to accomplish this task, we see that God's way, His perceptions of the situation, and His requirements of us are very different than ours

READ – Judges 7:1-22

I want you to understand this morning what Gideon was up against and then, over the next few weeks, how God led Him through to victory

- This story is truly about numbers
 - Is that not true for many of the things we must deal with today?
 - Numbers at work
 - A budget

- Putting in the right amount of hours
 - Personnel if you're in management
 - Numbers at home
 - The number of hours you spend doing what you do outside of work
 - Money management
 - Getting enough sleep
- Gideon is dealing with numbers
 - And his biggest concern is whether he has enough in his army to defeat both the Midianites and Amalekites.
 - But this is not only about numbers and likely it isn't for you either
 - It is about the heart
 - In this case, the heart of the Israeli people
 - We read in the 2nd verse, *The LORD said to Gideon, You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me; my own strength has saved me.*
 - Imagine being so set in your pattern of sin that someone else can say they KNOW you will do it?
 - 'Can't let him out of your sight at the store because he'll try and walk out with a microwave under his jacket!'
 - That was the state of the people
 - The cycle of rebellion – retribution – repentance – restoration
 - They are currently between the stations of repentance and restoration
 - Unfortunately, rebellion was not far off
- Gideon begins with formidable numbers
 - He has 32,000 fighting men
 - But 'fighting men' is a broad term and can have many levels of meaning
 - I say that because given the first opportunity to leave, 22,000 of the 32,000 took off for home
 - Okay, he still has 10,000
 - Oh – wait...did I mention that the opposition had 135,000 men?
 - Now we're down to 10,000?
 - Why would God do that?
 - Go back to verse 2
 - God knew the people
 - That's why this was more about the condition of the people's hearts than it was about the size of their army
 - They were also not the bravest or resolute people
 - God did not need the faint of heart to fight this battle
 - Just as He doesn't want you to lose heart as you face yours
 - He also apparently did not need 9,700 of the 10,000 who did remain either
 - God doesn't need you to have an entire arsenal to go into battle, just a heart that trusts and will obey Him

- God used an unusual measurement to show Gideon the ones he wanted to stay
 - And when the test was over – there were only 300 remaining
- How do you fight a battle that lopsided and expect to win?
 - How many times have you felt like the odds were overwhelming?
 - There are principles available to us that can give you the confidence to go into your spiritual battles with your head held high
- But you can never go in believing you can do it alone
 - Your 32,000 fighting men will never win without God's presence
 - And surrendering yourself anew this morning as you receive the elements that remind you of what God did by sending His Son to die for you is the best place to start.